

GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

HIGH TIMES

HIGH TIMES

DEC 431

TOP 10
STRAINS
OF THE YEAR



OBAMA
ON POT
BURNIN' WITH
SEAN PAUL

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TOP STRAINS OF THE YEAR



TH SEEDS
cold creek kush



BC BUD DEPOT
the big



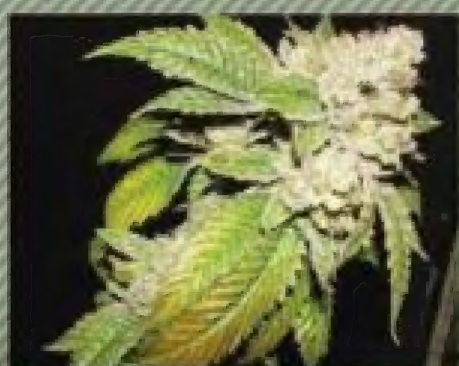
GREENHOUSE SEEDS
exodus cheese



DNA GENETICS
kosher kush



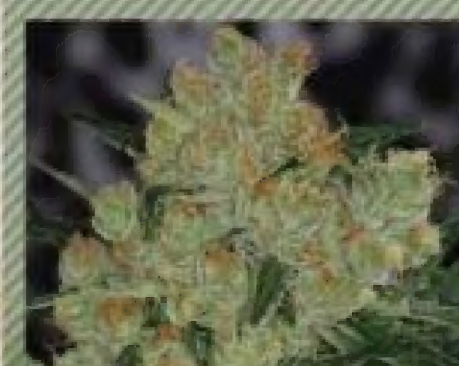
DINAFEM
critical +



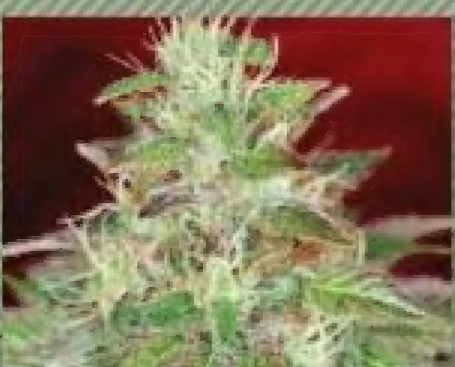
CALI CONNECTION
larry og



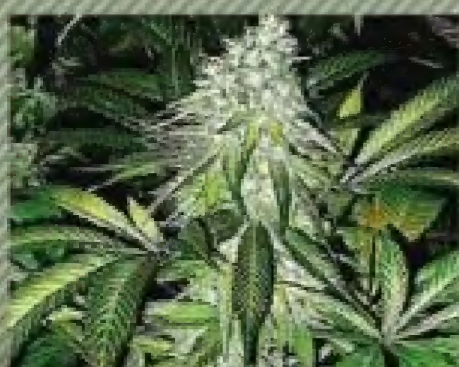
BARNEY'S FARM
fangerine dream



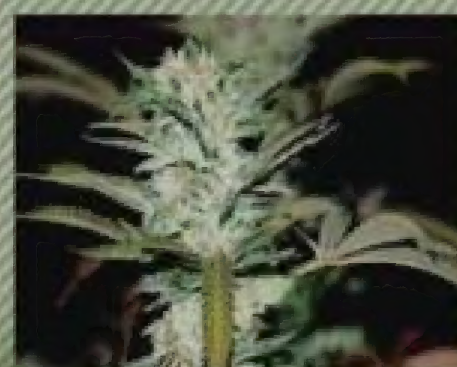
TGA SUBCOOL
cheese quake



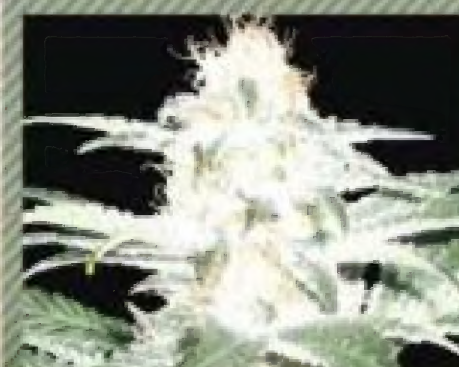
TGA SUBCOOL
jillybean



G13 LABS
pineapple express



RESERVA PRIVADA
sour kush

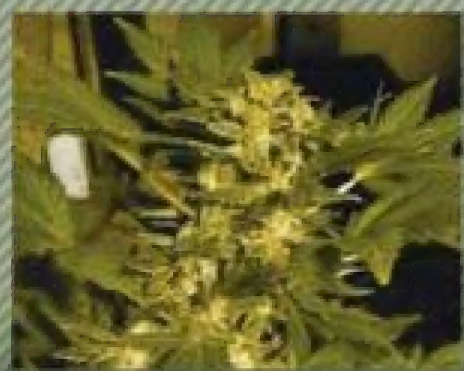


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DNA GENETICS
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white dwarf



BUDDHA SEEDS
syrup



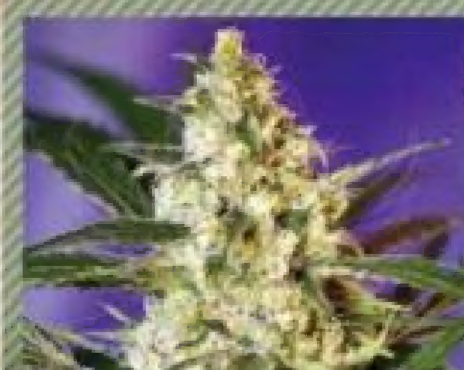
CONNOISSEUR GENETICS
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PYRAMID SEEDS
galaxy



KANNABIA SEEDS
bcn diesel



SWEET SEEDS
fast bud



GREENHOUSE SEEDS
kalashnikova



ROYAL QUEEN SEEDS
power flower



ROYAL QUEEN SEEDS
royal dwarf



DUTCH PASSION
frisian dew



WORLD OF SEEDS
new york 47



SWEET SEEDS
big devil #2



PARADISE SEEDS
verigo



TH SEEDS
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Combination 240V/120V



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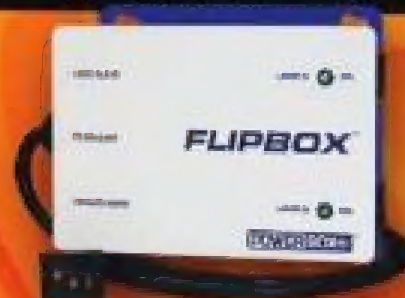
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STRAINS AND THE SUBLIME

"Being 'stoned' is not my goal; being 'high' or 'enhanced' is. Simply, I am not into the 'stupefaction' aspects of herb. I like herb that opens me up, that brightens my day, that makes me think and feel in a more positive way. I'm also into herb that motivates and stimulates creativity. It is, however, a matter of personal preference. For example, a person using herb to substitute for a powerful opiate medication may appreciate the 'stone' of a 'stupefying' variety."

—DJ Short, legendary cannabis breeder and member of the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame

In the branch of philosophy known as aesthetics, the highest form of beauty and quality is referred to as "the sublime." It's an immeasurable and overpowering greatness, like a Picasso painting that makes people burst into tears at the sight of it. The true cannabis connoisseur recognizes the sublime in certain delectable strains and understands that the endless genetic varieties available (and possible) only add to our admiration of the plant.

Dr. Lester Grinspoon praises cannabis especially for its qualities of enhancement—enhancement of music, of our appreciation of nature, even of sex. The marijuana aficionado understands the bliss of puffing an uplifting electric *sativa* in the daytime, followed by a soothing and relaxing *indica* stone at night. That's why, every year in our December issue, we present our HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strains of the Year in order to continue the tradition of seeking out the finest herbs and spreading the word—and the seed.

At the same time, our Global Harvest Report reminds us that cannabis is indeed a worldwide phenomenon. Farmers everywhere persevere, and their determination to grow more and better herb inspires and enlightens the population to the joys of fine marijuana. Also in this issue: Nico Escondido visits a few of Amsterdam's most sophisticated indoor growrooms, while from the West Coast comes a report on light-deprivation techniques for flowering that allow greenhouse growers to harvest more crops per season. And be sure to check out our eye-opening interview with Professor Harry G. Levine about the incredible racial disparity in marijuana arrests—yet another of the many injustices bred by the war on flowers.

Danny Danko
Senior Cultivation Editor

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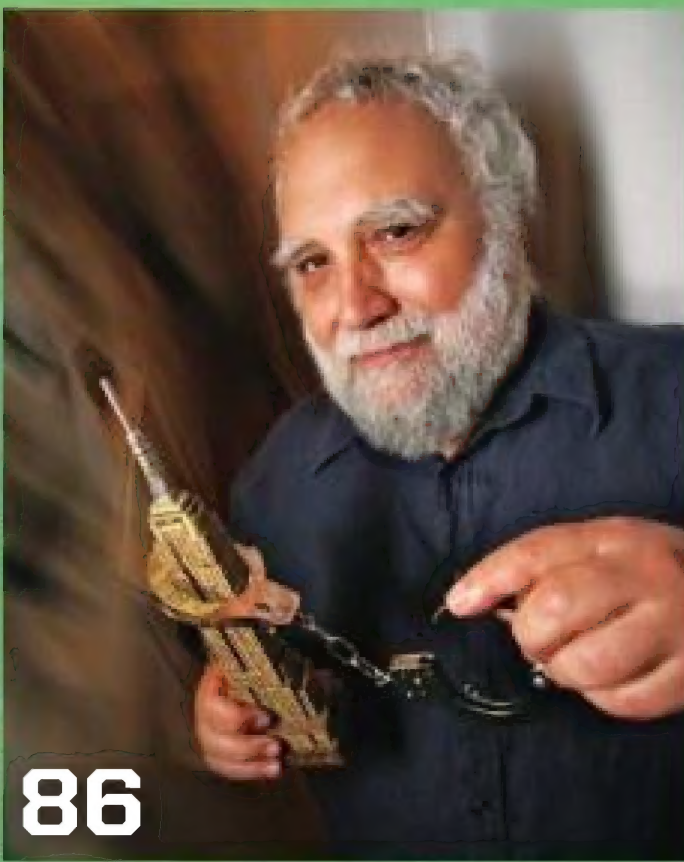
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FEATURES

36 GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

What's going on globally in the world of marijuana? This year we've added a few new areas to those that have been cornerstones of the movement for decades. Information about strains, grow conditions, political climate and, of course, harvest yields are compiled and featured in this annual report.

48 ADVANCED AMSTERDAM

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

With more indoor growers exploring new hydroponic mediums, and with light science finally pushing the lamp industry forward, Amsterdam has once again shown that smart growrooms are within anyone's reach. From soilless mixtures, to digital bulbs and ballasts, to the next BIG thing (plasma lights!), check out what the 'Dam has to say about your at-home operation.

58 TOP 10 STRAINS OF 2011

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko reveals HIGH TIMES' picks for the world's best cannabis varieties—all available in seed form from reputable bud breeders. Featuring detailed descriptions of both growth and smoking characteristics, our illustrious list is sure to get you growing.

78 BANKING LAID BARE

BY STEVEN HAGER

The little-known secret of banking is that a number of the most prominent financial institutions have depended on black-market money to survive—which obviously means that a part of today's banking industry depends upon drug money.

86 BUSTED APPLE: THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH DR. HARRY LEVINE

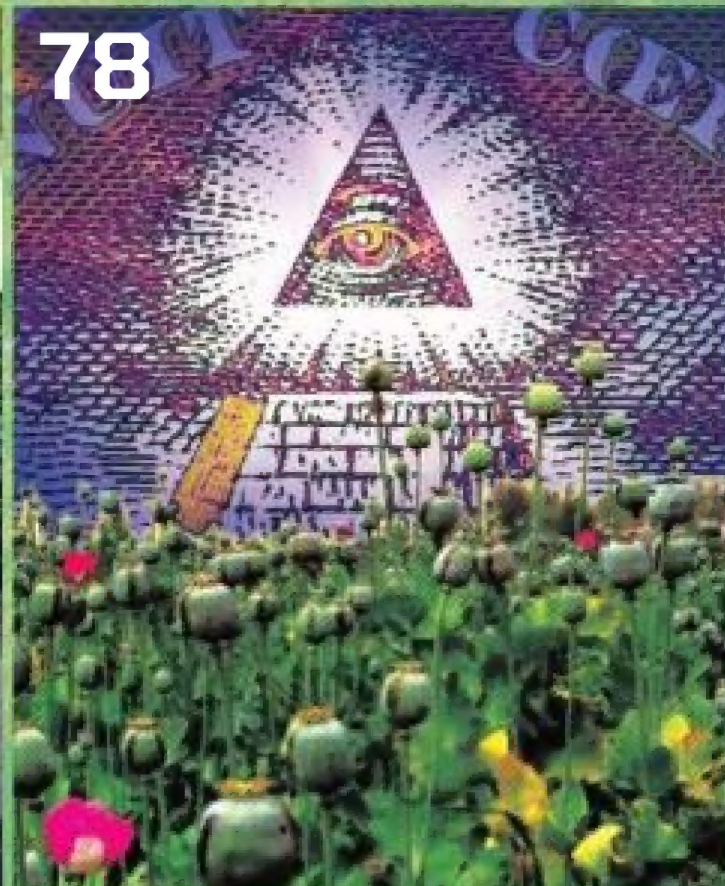
BY DAN SKYE

New York City is busting pot smokers by the thousands, with police actually relying on the arrests to earn overtime pay. Worst of all, says researcher Harry Levine, this calculated campaign against low-income users is unapologetically racist.

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DEPARTMENTS

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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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COVER: KENT SEA/HT ARCHIVE STRAIN: ASSORTED
CENTERFOLD: MANDALA SEEDS STRAIN: KRYSTALICA

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feedback

MORE ON MAINE

Maine's got the right idea about legalizing pot ["Moving Forward in Maine," HT Sept. '11]. This country has its priorities all messed up, especially since it's been shown that pot isn't as bad as cigarettes or alcohol. (Maybe because those things are controlled by the government.)

I want to say good luck to Maine; I think they have a lot more support than they realize. I hope the writer is right when he says that pot might be legal there in 2012. If so, I know where I'm moving.

Justin W.
Rhode Island

HEADSHOPPER

I think you guys should give out an award for Best Headshop in the US. I myself have been to many of them and have seen some pretty good ones, so it could make an interesting article for the magazine—you might be surprised what you'll find out there. My favorite so far is Kind Creations in Fort Collins, CO.

Loyal Reader S.W.

People in progressive states like Colorado sometimes forget that most headshops in the US prefer to operate quietly—they aren't looking for publicity, especially in HT. But we're certainly eager to cover any *outstandingly unique* headshop that's willing.

BEST IN GROW?

I'm a big fan of your magazine! I just wanted to know if you guys have any idea when the book from the best grower in the world will be available? It's been a couple of years now. If y'all could let me know, I'd really appreciate it!

Julien

If you really know who the best grower in the world is, please let us know! In the meantime, you might want to check out HT cultivation editor Nico Escondido's comprehensive *Grow Like a Pro* DVD.

GARDEN APP

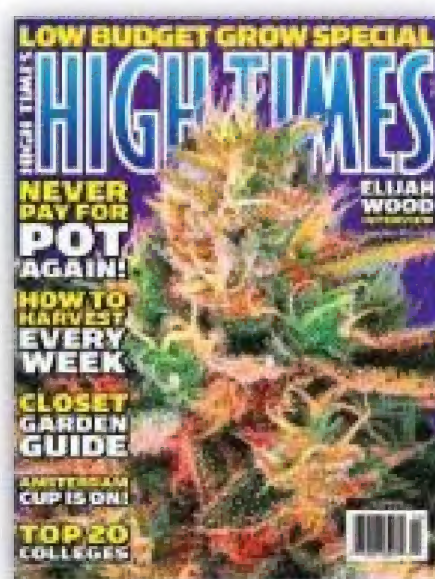
In today's market, there's a high interest in Android applications and things of that nature. Why doesn't HIGH TIMES create a virtual-garden app, for both instructional and entertainment purposes? It could give people lessons in grow techniques and proper maintenance, with options for various growing styles such as hydroponics.

Joe B.

Good idea. We presently have Cannex (hightimes.com/cannex), which directs you to local dispensaries, but we'll be expanding into the 'droid market in the near future.

THE WACO OF WEED

As I was flipping through the September 2011 issue, I came across Steven Hager's column about the Rainbow Farm in Michigan. Just wanted to say thanks! The story of the Rainbow Farm should be common knowledge for anyone involved in the



fight against pot prohibition. As a lifelong Michigan resident, I made a yearly trip to the Rainbow Farm with friends. It surprises me that not many people know what really happened out there. Every patient firing up in Michigan owes a big thanks to Tom and Rollie; those guys made it possible for us. And thank you for spreading the word. Keep up the good work.

Ryan O.
Saginaw, MI

BRINGIN' THE SEXY BACK

I've been reading HIGH TIMES for quite some time and love your publication—I consider it the Holy Grail for growers, smokers and anyone who loves weed. My question to you: Why not have a "sexy edition" of HIGH TIMES? Growers could send in photos of themselves in their growrooms (sunglasses optional) and vie for the title of Sexiest Grow Couple. Instead of Kandy Kush on the cover, how about an attractive guy and a smokin'-hot babe toking up on some? I'd totally enter myself and my girlfriend in the contest!

Aux

We'd rather you entered the sexiest buds.

TOUR MEMORIES

Some of my all-time favorite bud I got in the parking lot at a Grateful Dead concert in Santa Cruz, CA. It was greenish brown and smelled heavily (and tasted) of kelp. It also had this super-sativa high that was a real creeper. The only sativa that ever came close was this roach that my friend found on the playground when we were little.

I look through and read HIGH TIMES every day as part of my meditation.

Mikey Neides

CANNABIS 101

Hello, HIGH TIMES! Could you publish instructions on how to roll the perfect joint?

Kenwa

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko will be happy to assist you—just watch "HOW TO: Roll a Joint" at hightimes.com.

MEDICAID MARIJUANA

Marijuana is still illegal in the USA, according to the Feds. But a number of states have already legalized its medical use, with California leading the way. Man, there are now hundreds of thousands of patients in this country reaping pot's benefits. What I don't understand is why many more states aren't following California's lead? Also, I would really like to see medical marijuana accepted by the federal government and made available through Medicaid ... now that would be a super grand slam!

PS: I am legally blind due to glaucoma.

Xsighted

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RAP ON THE APP

If you're out of pot and need a vicarious high, download iBlunt 1.0 from Apple, which enables iPhone users to display an image of a blunt with a burning cherry. And guess what? When you blow into your phone's mic sensor, smoke undulates across the screen. The iBlunt can actually be manipulated by finger control: if you shake the phone you're able to flick the ash away. Congress has pressured Apple and other companies to eliminate apps that "promote illegal conduct." But there's this thing that America calls the First Amendment—you know, free speech?—which allows GoldMind Applications to create and sell the iBlunt app. It's the same right that allows us to publish a monthly magazine about an illegal plant. Even if Apple did ban the iBlunt app from their site, it'd still be accessible via underground and third party app sources.

Just like pot. Prohibition can't stop people from toking up—even virtually.

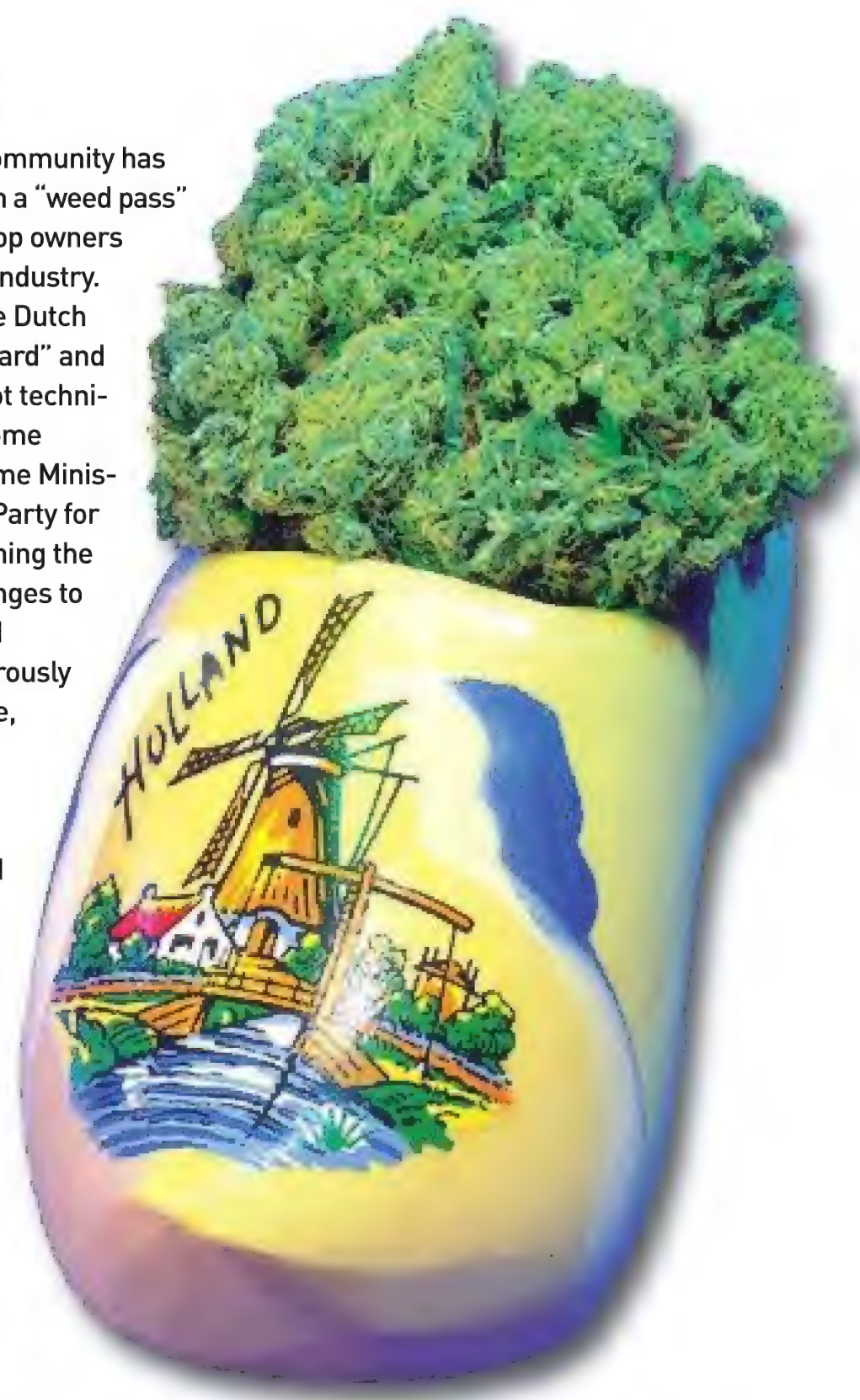
DUTCH RELIEF

Since the beginning of the year, the international cannabis community has wondered whether foreign tourists would be required to obtain a "weed pass" before visiting coffeeshops in the Netherlands. And coffeeshop owners have worried that such a requirement would decimate their industry.

The coffeeshop industry is licensed and supervised by the Dutch government to ensure that national regulations regarding "hard" and "soft" drugs are being followed. Since the coffeeshops are not technically legal, they're covered by a "tolerance policy" that has come under attack from various quarters, most recently Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte (the leader, ironically, of the liberal People's Party for Freedom and Democracy), whose government has been pushing the weed pass. But the prime minister can only recommend changes to national drug policy; it is then up to Parliament to debate and vote on the proposed changes, which have already been vigorously opposed by a number of local officials in cities like The Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Maastricht and, of course, Amsterdam.

In July, the Council of State—the Dutch version of the Supreme Court—ruled that a weed pass would unfairly discriminate against tourists, except in certain heavily trafficked border areas. Furthermore, even a far more restricted version of the weed pass—as well as a new regulation requiring coffeeshops to be located at least 350 meters from schools—can't become law until 2015, according to the country's current tolerance policy. Until then, any new regulations can only be implemented through local legislation, which is highly unlikely in Amsterdam.

Maurice Veldman, the attorney for the city's coffeeshop coalition, says: "Shops will remain open and continue fulfilling the roll that they were established for. Tell all your friends, book a flight and come visit us in Amsterdam, where the coffeeshops are open and waiting for you."



EASE THEIR PAIN!

Marijuana is so effective as medicine that it was just a matter of time until a method of medicating animals was marketed. Enter Seattle-based Medical Marijuana Delivery Systems (MMDS) which has created Tetracan, a patch delivering cannabis medicine to alleviate chronic pain in all kinds of mammals: dogs, cats, horses—even humans. It provides a holistic medication for animals' ailments instead of dangerous pet pharmaceuticals. And, no, your pet won't get high!

The patch was originally developed in 2000 by Walter Cristobal of the Pueblo Tribe in New Mexico. He found business partners in pet owners who were seeking nontoxic, topical methods for their pets. (Large dogs, in particular, are prone to joint pain as they age.) Today, MMDS develops and markets cannabis-based creams, gels and oils for people and animals. The company will approach states that have already approved medical marijuana in order to introduce Tetracan for veterinary use; although state laws will need to be amended to include animals. Of course, we could start busting dogs, but it's really hard to handcuff a Great Dane.



Cannabis is a dog's best friend.



a DANGEROUS DRUG

Maybe the Drug War should be waged in the medicine cabinet, because what's being sold over-the-counter is downright criminal. When you take two Extra Strength Tylenol pills, you're dosing yourself with 1,000 mg. of acetaminophen. If you take eight over the course of a day, you're at risk of an overdose. How common is an acetaminophen overdose? According to a FDA report that examined the years spanning 1990-2001, an average of 26,000 people are hospitalized and 458 die annually from acetaminophen overdoses. Heavy use of the drug has been linked to liver damage. To minimize liability, Johnson & Johnson, makers of Tylenol, recently cut the recommended daily dosage from eight pills per day to six. Ah, if the world could only find a safe, reliable drug...



NEW BUDS NEW TOKERS

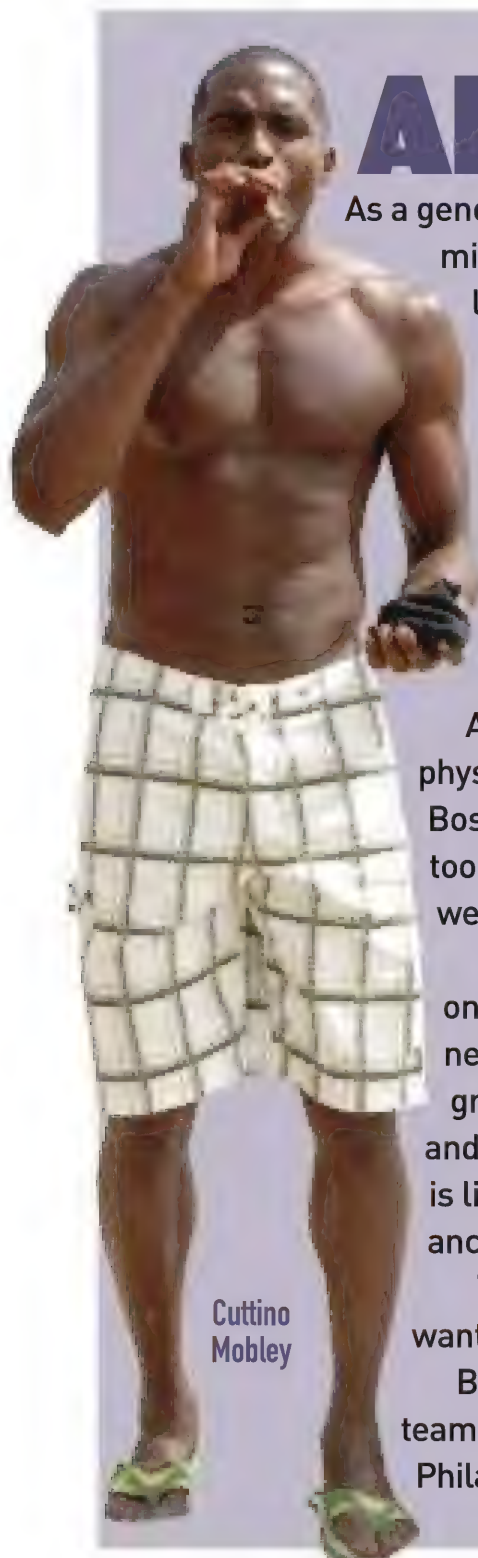
By the end of today, 6,000 more Americans will have tried pot for the very first time. These are the stone, cold facts from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the research institute that generally serves as the federal government's anti-pot propaganda mill. Six thousand new pot users breaks down to 250 people an hour, or 4.2 people each passing minute, which works out to—amazingly—42,000 new inhalers weekly, which works out to 180,000 every month, almost 2.2 million a year. Let's overtake the government!

COPS PLANT THEIR PINK SLIPS

Don't mess with 84-year-old Mary Lee Cook, who shut down the entire central Oak Hill, FL, police force after accusing them of planting pot on her property. In July, acting on a tip, narcotics agents discovered 10 pot plants growing near a broken, open portion of fence on Mayor Cook's land. The Volusia County Sheriff didn't charge Cook and doesn't plan to, because it was believed she was unaware of the plants.

When the news broke, the mayor was obliged to defend herself at a City Commission meeting. She refused to resign and suggested the plants were planted by Oak Hill police, in an attempt to discredit her.

But Mayor Cook went even further. In early August, she presented additional complaints against Police Chief Diane Young and terminated every member of the Oak Hill police force. City commissioners backed the mayor with a 3-2 vote citing alleged corruption and the potential scandal. Volusia County sheriffs took over policing as Oak Hill cops joined the ranks of the unemployed.



Cuttino Mobley

ALL-STAR OFF-COURT

As a general rule, once they stop playing pro hoops, successful NBA players retire as multi-millionaires and go on permanent vacation. But not ex-shooting guard Cuttino Mobley. Since his solid 11-year NBA career ended, he's been involved in a number of projects intended to better this world. That includes his financial support of medical marijuana dispensaries in Maine and Rhode Island.

Mobley was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, but finished high school in Maine before attending college in Rhode Island. He proved himself at the highest levels of the college game, taking the University of Rhode Island's team on an improbable trip to the "Elite 8" level of the NCAA tournament in 1998. He was drafted that same year by the Houston Rockets and averaged a career-high 21.7 points per game in the 2001-02 season.

After he was traded to the New York Knicks in November 2008, a trade-mandated physical revealed that Mobley had an enlarged heart—the same condition that caused Boston Celtics All-Star Reggie Lewis's death at the age of 27 in 1993. Mobley never took the court again; though he did attempt a comeback in 2010 with the Celtics, it went no further than the tryout.

At 33, Mobley's career may have been cut short, but as the saying goes: "When one door closes, another opens." His medical condition—and an increased awareness of the health issues of those around him—motivated him to get into the rapidly growing world of medical marijuana. Via his company, the Mobley Pain Management and Wellness Center, he's invested \$2 million in the Northeast Patients Group, which is licensed to operate four med-pot dispensaries in Maine. Mobley is also the sole financier of the Summit Medical Compassion Center in Warwick, RI.

"I want to help people," Mobley told *The Providence Journal*. "I've done well, and I want everyone to do well. Let's all do well together."

Beyond his cannabis entrepreneurship, Mobley helps fund an Amateur Athletic Union team in Philadelphia, has built basketball courts in Africa, and runs a foundation (also in Philadelphia) that aids single mothers and homeless children.

CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION

Porsche Design markets all kinds of pricey merchandise, including luggage, eyewear and clothing—and now it's offering the new Porsche Shisha, which will set you back \$2,000. What, exactly, is the Shisha? A bong. That's right: Porsche is marketing a designer bong made from stainless steel, aluminum and a TecFlex tube. Our review? A fool and his two grand are soon parted. Buy a pound of good Cali outdoor instead.

See the Shisha at porsche-design.com.



SCENT OF A STONER

Kush Perfume (for men and women) is created using what the website describes as "ancient methods of perfumery and distillation. A combination of extracts of natural botanicals and essential oils" is used in the formula, which is "finished with a hint of vanilla in a jojoba oil base." Apparently, this mimics the smell of Kush buds.

We'll leave this one up to you. If you've ever smelled the real thing, you'll never forget it—nor will anyone else within 20 yards. If you wanna smell like that, be our guest. (You'll make lots of new friends.) But Kush Perfume's makers say that it *won't* draw unwanted attention to you; instead, it will "remind the wearer of one of Mother Nature's finest, natural scents."

We don't need reminders; we want the real thing!

Visit kushperfume.com.



SURFING ON HEMP

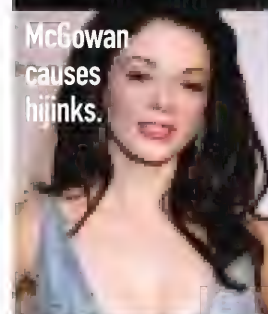
Chad Kaimanu Jackson has been surfing professionally since he was a teenager. His father is the renowned 1960s surfboard shaper and glasser Bruce Jackson. After learning the art of building boards from his dad, Chad created Kaimanu Hemp Surfboards, which he's been manufacturing using hemp cloth and other eco-friendly alternatives since 2006. Up to 90 percent of the fiberglass used in traditional boards has been eliminated, but Chad's hemp boards have proved durable, sturdy and strong, even on the gnarliest of wave breaks. They're also custom-designed and handmade, and Chad produces only five to 10 per month. As he puts it: "Hemp is the answer, and we're here to promote it and bring it back—one surfboard at a time."

Visit hempsurfboards.com and also check out Local Clothes, Chad's hemp-clothing line, at localclothes.com.



Chad Jackson attacks a wave on a board made of hemp.

SHOWBUZZ



McGowan causes hijinks.

ROSE DOSE

Appearing on *Chelsea Lately*, edgy actress

Rose McGowan related the tale of how her personal assistant had recently baked up a batch

of pot brownies after Rose told the P.A. she'd never tried them. According to McGowan, the plate was left on her kitchen counter with a sign reading "Enjoy!" Unfortunately, Rose didn't make the connection; she thought they were regular brownies, so she left them out for a group of real-estate agents checking out her LA home. Later that day, she got a call from one of the zonked realtors, who whispered into the phone: "I'm at a parent/teacher conference. Was there ... anything ... in those brownies?"

DOOM & VROOOM

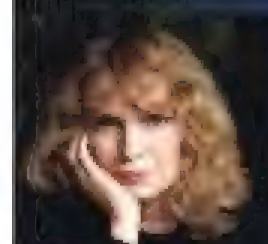
In August, two crew members for the Earnhardt Ganassi Racing Sprint Car driven by Juan Pablo Montoya were busted in



Montoya's crew smuggles.

Huntersville, NC. The cops intercepted 10.5 pounds that had been shipped from California. Trevor L. Lysne, a front-tire changer on the team, and Jerome D. Frey, a mechanic, got flagged. Both were fired immediately.

Still, both were probably tokers long before they crashed and burned. So it's logical to assume that these stoners performed admirably—one in the pit, the other in the shop—with pot in their systems.



Farrow grows, but doesn't know.

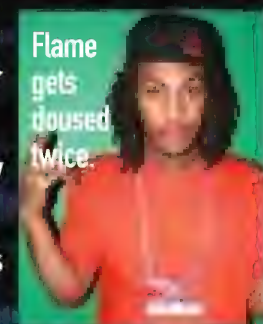
NOT MIA'S IDEA

Twenty-four pot plants were found on actress Mia Farrow's property, but she wasn't the grower; a local gardener "borrowed" her land.

Mia was oblivious to the grow op and was never a target, according to the state narcotics task force that conducted the raid. Really? A state narcotics task force for 24 plants? Your tax dollars at work!

DOUBLE TROUBLE

This past summer, Rapper Waka Flocka Flame got busted twice. First, in New York City for possession. Then, less than two weeks later, in Georgia during a routine traffic violation. Cops smelled pot, searched his car and found less than an ounce. Just one more bust in this ridiculous, tragic war on pot smokers.



Flame gets doused twice.

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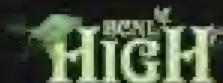


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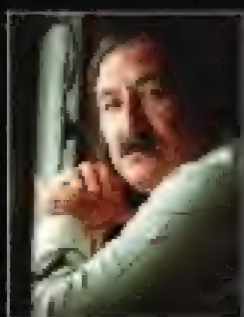


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LEONARD PELTIER INDIAN MARTYR

Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier has been behind bars for over 35 years. Convicted in 1977 for the murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota, his case stands as one of the worst miscarriages of justice ever perpetrated on an American citizen.



During the 1970s, Pine Ridge, SD, suffered the highest per capita murder rate in the nation, the result of strife between the American Indian Movement (AIM) and corrupt tribal police. AIM members and sympathizers, who sought radical

change on the poverty-stricken reservation, were preyed upon and the FBI was complicit in their harassment. In June 1975, a firefight broke out at a rural ranch between two FBI agents and a group of Indians belonging to AIM. In the tense, war-like conditions of Pine Ridge, the shooting began before the agents could identify themselves. Both men were killed at close range.

Despite the presence of multiple police agencies, the Indians at the ranch—a group that included women and children—managed to escape. Peltier was captured the following year. In the ensuing trial, it became clear that evidence against him had been fabricated and wit-

nesses coerced. Peltier was found guilty for both murders and sentenced to two life terms, despite the fact that two other Indians—both present at the shooting scene—had already been acquitted.

During his more than three decades behind bars, Peltier has been a model prisoner. He's become an outstanding artist, something that "keeps me alive," he says. And, as a leading spokesperson for Native rights, Peltier has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize six times. But his incarceration has been arduous: He's now 67 years old, suffers from a heart condition and was recently beaten up by a prison gang. This past summer, he

was placed under 23-hour lockdown for a minor infraction.

His attorney, Michael Kuzma, says the government has made defending Peltier "extremely difficult." Numerous court appeals have failed, and a presidential pardon has been denied by the last three presidents—despite the government's own admission that it "did not and cannot prove" Peltier killed the two agents. Many believe that President Barack Obama will finally set him free if he fails to win re-election. But that remains to be seen—especially since the FBI remains bitterly opposed to Peltier's release. ✨

Visit whoisleonardpeltier.info.

HIGH FEVER

Apparently, the peak season for sickness in Boulder, CO, is the month of April. We say that because April 2011 brought in the highest amount of medical marijuana dispensary revenues for any individual month in the city: \$2.1 million, according to Boulder's latest assessment of sales tax collections. Through May 2011, med-pot retail sales in Boulder totaled \$9.2 million (with over \$300,000 in tax revenue collected during that same period), putting the city on pace to top \$20 million in dispensary sales for 2010. But why April, which saw almost \$250,000 more in sales than the average month? It could be as simple as the power of 4/20, our national stoner holiday. More than 10,000 people gather annually for the massive 4/20 celebration on the campus of the University of Colorado at Boulder, with local dispensaries offering discounts and specials for patients. Additionally, federal tax refunds may have been responsible for stimulating the local economy and patients alike.



Galbraith may finally win the governorship of Kentucky.

VOTE GATEWOOD!

On November 8, the entire country will be focused on the governor's race in Kentucky. Perennial candidate Gatewood Galbraith—an outspoken advocate for legalization who's appeared on the cover of *HIGH TIMES* with Willie Nelson (Jan. '91)—has been tied with sitting Governor Steve Beshear in most polls, and has even crushed him and the Republican candidate in local surveys. Galbraith has run for governor four times, three times as a Democrat, once as a Reform Party candidate; now he has no party affiliation, not even as an independent.

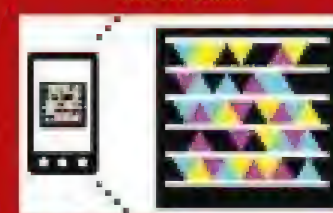
"A culture of corruption has developed within our leadership, and only those who pay to play are accepted in inner circles," Galbraith says. "We have continued to elect the same candidates time and time again, while our standard of living grows worse."

Galbraith points out bluntly that Kentucky faces "overwhelming problems." The state has remained in the lowest percentile on pretty much every national statistic of well-being—including health, education and child welfare—regardless of which party has won. It is also the fifth-poorest state in America.

Galbraith promises a regional approach to economic development, energy, industry and education as well as intelligent stewardship of the state's natural resources. He also says that, upon election, his approach to the Drug War will simply be: "Stop—leave those people alone."

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OBUMMER

THREE YEARS INTO THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY, REFORMERS ARE LOSING HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN AMERICA'S POT POLICIES. BY PAUL ARMENTANO

Among presidential candidates, Barack Obama was a unique figure. Never before had a politician been so candid on the campaign trail regarding his own past use of illicit substances, and few incoming presidents had ever generated greater enthusiasm within the drug-law reform community. At the time, the widespread optimism of cannabis activists appeared warranted.

As a senator, Obama had publicly expressed the need for the United States government to “re-think and decriminalize our marijuana laws,” and as a presidential candidate, he pledged not to “use Justice Department resources to try and circumvent state [marijuana] laws.”

Reformers’ hopes were raised further when the White House issued its “scientific integrity” memo in March 2009, which stated: “Science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions of [the] Administration.” It was also heartening when, later that fall, US Attorney General Eric Holder announced formal guidelines that urged federal prosecutors to cease targeting medical-pot patients and providers who were “in clear and unambiguous compliance” with state law.

But that was then. This is now.

Obama: ‘I don’t know what this says about the online audience.’

So chuckled President Obama at an online town-hall forum in 2009, responding to the question of whether regulating marijuana would “boost the economy and reduce drug-cartel-related violence.” (For the record, Obama’s full reply was: “The answer is no. I don’t think that [would be] a good strategy.”) For drug-law reformers, it was the laugh heard round the world—and a bitter sign of things to come.

While Obama’s flippant response may have implied that the president had little interest in addressing the marijuana issue at all earnestly, his recent appointments and policies indicate that he, like his predecessors, is dead serious about maintaining the war on cannabis consumers.

DEA: ‘We will continue to enforce the federal drug laws.’

Three years into Obama’s term, it is clear that the presidential changing of the guard has made no difference regarding how the Drug Enforcement Administration does business. And that appears to be just the way Obama likes it.

In fact, despite the 2009 Holder memo, political observers note that the DEA has never so



much as wavered from the Bush doctrine of federal intervention in medical-marijuana states. There is one key difference, however: Under Obama, the DEA has largely ceased to publicize its actions.

Over the past 18 months, the DEA has spearheaded raids of medical-pot providers in numerous states, including California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada and Washington, several of which have led to federal indictments. In one such federal prosecution, lawyers for the government specifically argued that the 2009 Holder memo did not signify any substantive change in federal policy or provide any legal protections against prosecution in federal court. A United States District Court judge agreed. The defendant in the case, Colorado grower Christopher Bartkowitz, eventually received a five-year federal prison term for marijuana cultivation.

But the DEA isn't the only federal agency that has increasingly targeted medical-cannabis providers under Obama's watch. Over the past year, the Internal Revenue Service is estimated to have audited up to a dozen large-scale California dispensaries, including the state's biggest provider, Harborside Health Center in Oakland. In each case, the agency has cited a little-known and little-used section of the federal tax code that prohibits business deductions for any establishment that engages in "trafficking of a controlled substance." The IRS is seeking, in some of these audits, tens of millions of dollars in additional taxes and fines and has threatened providers with criminal sanctions if they don't pay up.

Michele Leonhart: 'Marijuana has no currently accepted medical use.'

The DEA's latest actions are hardly surprising given who's running the show. Last November, reformers' jaws collectively dropped when Obama announced the appointment of Michele Leonhart, a Drug War holdover from the Bush administration, to head America's top anti-drug agency.

Leonhart's résumé was well known among pot-law reformers. She had previously rejected an order from the DEA's own administrative-law judge to allow greater scientific exploration of medical cannabis, and in 2009 she publicly described the escalating violence on the US/Mexican border as a "signpost of the success" of America's Drug War strategy.

Since Leonhart assumed the position of DEA director in January, the agency—along with the Department of Justice—has noticeably stepped up its efforts to thwart patients' access to medical marijuana. Recent DEA raids in Montana and Washington have quashed those states' once-burgeoning medical-pot industries, while threats from US Attorneys in Arizona, Rhode Island and Washington have pressured lawmakers to put the kibosh on plans to allow for the state-licensed production and distribution of medical pot in those states.

Perhaps most notably, in July Leonhart for-

mally denied a nine-year-old petition calling on the agency to initiate hearings to reassess the present classification of marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance without any "accepted medical use in treatment." In affirming the agency's longstanding "flat earth" position, Leonhart alleged that cannabis has "a high potential for abuse," has "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States," and "lacks accepted safety for use under medical supervision."

"At this time," she concluded, "the known

**FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES ARE
"COMMITTED TO
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SUBSTANCES ACT
IN ALL STATES"
—INCLUDING THE 16
STATES THAT HAVE
LEGALIZED THE USE
AND PRODUCTION
OF MEDICINAL
CANNABIS.**

risks of marijuana use have not been shown to be outweighed by specific benefits in well-controlled clinical trials that scientifically evaluate safety and efficacy." While Leonhart's meritless position would evoke outrage under any circumstances, it is even more offensive in light of the administration's supposed commitment to "scientific integrity."

DOJ: 'The Department of Justice is committed to the enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act in all states.'

Despite Obama's initial promises to respect statewide marijuana laws, this past summer the administration issued an updated memorandum revising the DOJ's position on the use of federal resources in states that have approved medical marijuana. According to the latest memo, federal authorities are "committed to the enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act in all states"—including the 16 states that have legalized the use and production of medicinal cannabis.

"Persons who are in the business of cultivating, selling, or distributing marijuana, and those who knowingly facilitate such activities, are in violation of the Controlled Substances Act, regardless of state law," the memo states. And if anybody is still unclear about the president's stance, the memo concludes: "The pros-

ecution of significant traffickers in illegal drugs, including marijuana, remains a core priority" of the Obama administration.

Obama's about-face elicited a notably strong response from the drug-law reform community, particularly the patient-advocacy organization Americans for Safe Access, which called the administration's position "disingenuous" and indicative of a new, heightened "level of hostility from the federal government."

Obama's national drug-control strategy: 'Marijuana is addictive and unsafe'—so don't even bother trying to study it.

In July, the administration committed much of its newfound anti-pot rhetoric into an updated section of the White House's 2011 National Drug Control Strategy Report titled "The Facts About Marijuana." Herein, the administration recycles numerous reefer-madness lowlights—such as the claim that pot is a harmful and addictive gateway drug—and accuses the very drug-law reform organizations that had previously backed Obama's presidential bid of "perpetuat[ing] the false notion that marijuana use is harmless" and "significantly diminish[ing] efforts to keep our young people drug free."

The report also affirms what many advocates have suspected for some time: that the Obama White House, like its predecessors, has little interest in actually studying the known therapeutic properties of the cannabis plant. According to the 2011 report, only 14 US scientific studies—down from 18 in 2010—"are [federally] approved to conduct research with smoked marijuana on human subjects." A keyword search on the government website clinicaltrials.gov affirms the administration's lack of interest. According to the site, only two FDA-approved clinical trials on medical cannabis are presently ongoing, only one of which is taking place in the United States.

'Hope and change'? Not for pot consumers.

So what happened to our promised "hope and change"? It's still out there, just not inside the Beltway. Fortunately for drug-law activists, many states remain fertile ground for marijuana-policy reform—even as the federal government remains intransigent. The year 2011 saw reformers score major statewide victories in California and Connecticut, which both reduced adult marijuana-possession penalties to noncriminal offenses. In the states of Delaware, Maine and Vermont, legislative actions now offer new or expanded legal protections to medical-marijuana patients. And 2012 is already shaping up to be a watershed year, with legalization and medicalization initiatives planned for the ballot in several states, including California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Ohio, Oregon and Washington.

In other words, drug-law reform advocates will still have plenty of reasons to "smoke the vote" on Election Day in 2012—even if they ultimately decide to "just say no" to Obama's re-election. ✱



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WE BE BURNIN'

RAPPIN' WITH DANCEHALL SUPERSTAR SEAN PAUL AT THE HIGH TIMES MEDICAL CANNABIS CUP. BY MARK MILLER

MUNCHIN', NOT BLAZIN'

Dancehall demigod Sean Paul dropped by the 2011 HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco prior to performing in concert, and we bestowed a slick new vaporizer on him as a thank-you. He truly appreciated the gift, especially since he hasn't smoked pot in over a year. Don't get us wrong: Paul's been getting high as often as possible in the last 12 months—just not via smoking.

"Since June 2010, I've been eating weed," Paul discloses. "I have asthma, and at first [medical pot] was good for me and helped with the asthma, but after 15, 16 years of smoking 10 joints, pipes and bongs every day, it started to really affect my sinuses, which messes with my voice a lot. So I decided to give smoking a break. One day I had popcorn with some weed oil I made, and it was great—so I've stuck with that and been making [medicated] oil and tea every day."

It's no surprise Paul is choosing to preserve his million-dollar throat and its soulful ability to execute the turn-on-a-dime toasting—rapidly rap-chanting over the beat—that fuels his pot-party anthems, such as "Gimme the Light" (winner of a 2002 HIGH TIMES Doobie Award) and "We Be Burnin'." He also spawned electro-hop on "Press It Up" and smash singles like 2009's "So Fine" from the Grammy-nominated LP (for Best

Reggae Album) *Imperial Blaze*, the first Jamaican album to debut atop the *Billboard* rap charts. For the still-untitled new album, Paul plans on expanding his musical canvas, as can be seen on his recent hit single "Got 2 Luv U."

"This time around, I'm aiming to get a bigger dancehall sound. I'm working with [pop producer] Benny Blanco; the drumbeats are dancehall, but the strings and bass sound like what he does. He's adding layers and a different flavor to stuff I recorded at home first."

Paul has also branched out into producing, as on the forthcoming riddim-dubbed *Blaze Fia*, a compilation album with over 20 Jamaican musicians representing a return to old-school dancehall, as exemplified by Paul himself on "Hardcore" and the evocative ode to herb "Blaze Up" by Looga Man. He has another compilation CD coming out soon (*Material*) as well as unreleased songs with former schoolmate "Jr. Gong" Damian Marley. And if that's not enough, he's recorded yet another weed track, a "one-drop" (snare-drum backbeat) reggae riddim with Collie Buddz called "On My Way Back Home," about two stoners seeking to avoid getting arrested while baked. Paul also aspires to open his own studio and provide an influential artistic outlet for up-and-coming Jamaican dancehall DJs and toasters.

DANCEHALL DAZE

Pretty much every HIGH TIMES reader has burned a spliff to a Bob Marley record and knows what reggae is, but what is "dancehall" specifically? (Surely not that 1980s Wang Chung crap.)

"If reggae is our fathers' music, then dancehall is the child of reggae; it's the kids' expression for it. Most kids in Jamaica don't have the money to buy instruments and start bands—economics is one of the reasons our music [reggae] went more computer-oriented and became dancehall, with kids rhyming and rapping over beats.

"Now I'm trying to take dancehall music to a level where it's not just 'ours' anymore. I'm trying to make the indigenous sound more global. Dancehall sometimes may sound a little hip-hop-ish, sometimes a little R&B-ish or more like dance music. Dancehall is versatile and evolving."

Even before he attained musical success, Sean Paul's early life makes a fascinating biography. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, he was raised Catholic in a nation where only two percent of the population is such. He was a notable athlete in his youth, representing his country on the Jamaican National Water Polo Team, translating the skills honed in the pool to serve him creatively in the competitive realm of dancehall.

Paul's diverse DNA includes Afro-Caribbean,

Portuguese, British, Chinese-Jamaican and Jewish-German genes; he's used this bounty of backgrounds to both sharpen and widen his global appeal.

"I just see myself as a Jamaican kid, but when people see me, they don't know what to make of me. But that also helps me, because people can't put me in that box and say, 'Oh, he is this or that.' I'm just me."

On his family influencing his aesthetics: "My mom loved the Beatles. That's where I got a sense of melody and complementing harmonies from, before I got into dancehall."

'SINCE JUNE 2010, I'VE BEEN EATING WEED. AFTER 15, 16 YEARS OF SMOKING 10 JOINTS, PIPES AND BONGS EVERY DAY, IT STARTED TO REALLY AFFECT MY SINUSES, WHICH MESSES WITH MY VOICE A LOT.'

IRIE TIMES

In light of the increasing cultural awareness—and acceptance—of pot's powers to enhance the mind's creative faculties, Paul confirms that he receives inspiration when irie.

"Yeah, it gets me in a type of zone," he says. "When I first started to smoke weed, I found myself thinking about the things I *wanted* to think about. I'd forget about trivial things and concentrate on putting my dreams and goals of being an artist ahead."

"I've written songs without it, for sure," he adds, "but weed helps me really concentrate on doing some songs, so it's a good tool."

Perhaps the most intriguing revelation Paul dropped was on the subject of so-called "pain clinics" after we asked him some questions about medicinal cannabis.

"In Florida, instead of medical-marijuana dispensaries, they have these 'pain clinics' where they sell OxyContin and Percocet. And even people from Middle America that don't have these clinics, they drive to Florida to get drugs. Doctors there get paid \$100,000 a month just to write prescriptions. So if you say, 'I broke my finger years ago but it still pains me, Doc,' they'll give you a prescription. Plus some [of the 'patients'] take these pills and resell them [on the black market]! That's crazy, rather than having medical marijuana."

Paul's remarks proved topical, as state and federal shutdowns of these illegal "pill mills" continue to make the news—including the curious fact that Florida Governor Rick Scott has placed obstacles in front of state lawmakers seeking to create tighter restrictions on the pain clinics, including a patient-monitoring database.

Paul relayed his own personal experience with such dangerous prescription medications following knee surgery in Florida earlier this year. After the operation, he says, "I took [prescription opioids] for three days, since I was in a lot of pain with my knee. But when I woke up the fourth morning, I was thinking, 'What time do I have to take this pill?'—even though my knee wasn't throbbing anymore. And I caught myself and said, 'That's pretty fucked up.' And I didn't take any more Oxy after that."

Sean Paul inspects the merchandise.

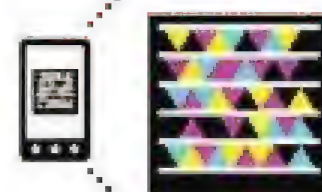
SPIRITUAL HIGHS

Concluding our session with his metaphysical views, Paul was especially forthright and insightful, even with people banging on his green-room door because our interview had gone over schedule and it was time to take photos.

"I've always thought there was a connection between weed and spirituality. I had this idea that seven was a blessed number, and there are seven leaves on a pot leaf. Plus those I knew who smoked weed were more thoughtful of people and of life."

"I was raised Catholic, but when I sing about God, I say 'Jah'—which might upset some people, but to me the lines of religion are blurred. Religion has caused a lot of problems over the years. Meditating together with people is probably the best spiritual experience I've had—better than feeling guilty or being upset at someone else's thoughts for being a Muslim or Seventh-Day Adventist or whatever. The powers that be want things to stay the way they are, so when someone thinks different, it's deemed suspicious. I don't know when we can get past that and all get along and understand each other—but hopefully soon." ✨

Watch Sean Paul burn online:



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Mike Watt started making independent music with The Minutemen in 1980.

THE ANCHOR

THE BASSIST NEVER STANDS ALONE AS MIKE WATT FORGES ON. BY CHRIS PARKER

Bassists are an unsung bunch. Shredding guitarists, strutting singers, even the rumble of drums and crash of cymbals receive much more attention. Bassists are the glue that holds it all together, and as such they often go unnoticed. So despite the fact that Mike Watt is arguably punk's finest bassist, he's hardly a household name.

"When people go into the head, they look at the tile—I'm the grout," Watt acknowledges breezily.

It's a role he's cherished for more than 35 years, ever since the mother of his late Minutemen bandmate D. Boon stuck him on bass to keep Watt and her son occupied in her house after school rather than running around on the streets. Since that time, Watt's been in more than 20 different combos, ranging from pioneering '80s punkers the Minutemen through muscular college rockers FIREHOSE to playing alongside fellow indie-rock icons like J. Mascis, Thurston Moore, Perry Farrell and Eddie Vedder. But probably his proudest moments (aside

from the Minutemen) have been spending the last eight years in the re-formed Stooges.

"I don't think we would even have a punk scene without the Stooges," says Watt, who counts Iggy Pop as one of his good friends. "It's incredible—I could never imagine it in my wildest of dreams."

Unlike many of his younger punk peers, the 53-year-old Watt grew up on arena rock and acts like Blue Oyster Cult. (He still sometimes plays "The Red and the Black" live, which he originally covered with the Minutemen.) The very first show Boon and he saw was T. Rex in '71, where they were first exposed to pot through the omnipresent contact buzz.

"Because [the pot] was so weak, dudes smoked tons of the stuff," Watt recalls with a laugh. "You could barely see the band because the clouds were so thick. It was hilarious—just sitting there, it was coming through your skin and stuff. It was really lame, but the good thing was, you didn't have to smoke a lot to get a headache."

Though he and Boon loved music, they never really considered becoming professional musicians. Hell, for the longest time Watt didn't even know what a bass *was*—because he'd only seen them from afar, he thought they were simply four-string guitars. It wasn't until Boon and he saw a punk-rock show at the Masque in Los Angeles that they finally thought about starting a band.

"That was the first thing I said to D. Boon when we went to that gig: 'We could do this.' There was just something empowering about it. We'd been to many concerts; we were playing in the bedroom after school. But we never put it together or even thought of music as a form of expression," he says. "That's what attracted us to punk—those kids were so motivated. It took these guys in crazy clothes playing this

'BECAUSE THE POT WAS SO WEAK, DUDES SMOKED TONS OF THE STUFF. YOU COULD BARELY SEE THE BAND BECAUSE THE CLOUDS WERE SO THICK.'

thing to light a fire in us."

After some fits and starts, the Minutemen got going in 1980, and their debut seven-inch, *Paranoid Time*, became the second re-

lease on Black Flag founder Greg Ginn's seminal punk label, SST Records. Their jazzy, disjunctive punk paeans rarely lasted much longer than a minute (hence the band's name) and were partially inspired by Wire's *Pink Flag*. They remain some of the most distinctive music of the era, though the band's legacy was cut short by D. Boon's death in a 1985 van accident.

Watt struggled to deal with his best friend's loss, even refusing to play their music for two decades until he revisited those songs for a few gigs in support of the 2005 Minutemen documentary, *We Jam Econo*. The experience fueled Watt's creativity, and his fourth solo album, last year's *Hyphenated-Man*, uses their old style as a musical touchstone. The album offers a meditation on middle age as refracted through 30 minute-plus songs inspired in part by Hieronymus Bosch's surreal painting, *The Garden of Earthly Delights*. It concludes with "Wheel-Turnin-Man," which opines that "life's for learnin' as I'm goin' through my trips, me on the wheel as it's turning."

"That's the big central thing to the album," Watt says. "I think life's always figuring on it—you never *answer* it. The knowing is in the doing."

He still likes to smoke weed, especially at the end of the night, to ease his tired joints and relax as the day draws to a close. Like most things, it goes back to those years he spent with D. Boon.

"One time we'd been working the 11-7 graveyard shift at Jack in the Box," he recalls. "We would get so hungry after smoking that we'd eat oatmeal. It was a good filler, econo [i.e., economical] and healthy. This one time, we fixed up these big bowls of oatmeal, and we both conk out in them. Our foreheads conked on the rims of the bowl so we didn't drown. I can just see the newspapers: 'Oatmeal claims two more victims.'" ✨

High Times
Stash Award winner



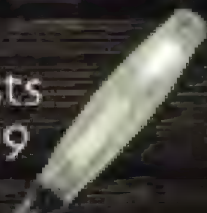
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GUCCI GANJA

KREAYSHAWN'S SURPRISE 2011 HIT HINTS AT BIGGER THINGS TO COME.

BY JUSTIN HAMPTON

Everybody in Kreayshawn's camp remembers the date: May 16, 2011. That's the day homegirl's single "Gucci Gucci" dropped on YouTube. You know the one: Minnie Mouse ears, Amy Winehouse mascara applications, cameos by Odd Future and Speak from the Art Goons posse, puff-puff-passing and, of course, one big room full of bad bitches. It catapulted the diminutive 21-year-old art-school refugee and YouTube video director (for Lil B and East Oakland cadet DB the General) to international stardom.

Yet despite her constant adjustment to the altered reality of her situation, after a few minutes in her presence, one immediately accepts Natassia Zolot as a real person rather than some artificial hipster persona—an accusation constantly leveled at her by the haters online and off. "Ninety-nine percent of the people that

are hating are fucking rappers, and they're fucking mad," Kreayshawn figures. "Go back and look at my history and my videos ... I did say on Twitter this morning, because I was so mad: 'Just like all you fucking bitch-ass reporters, come to Oakland and feel me. Come in the projects and interview me. I'm not scared to go over there. You guys are.'"

Prior to "Gucci Gucci" and her deal with Columbia Records, Kreayshawn's only options were the ones she worked hard for. Jumping back and forth between Oakland and Los Angeles (where she's currently based) after dropping out of high school, Kreayshawn did whatever paid the bills. Remember that line "See me at your college campus / Baggie full of Adderall"? That was part of Natassia's grind. "I was always filming and doing art, and I couldn't keep a job while doing all this. So, shit, we had a trap house in Richmond. We were getting in fake prescriptions and all kinds of ... we were just moving. So, yeah, that's from experience. Why?" she gestures se-

ductively, reverting to full-on Lolita-pusher mode as she faux-propositions me. "You want some Adderall? You need a fix? You need a boost?"

Regardless of her hardscrabble upbringing, Kreayshawn sees herself as more outsider weirdo than hardcore hood rat. Her grandmother was a hippie, her mom a shockabilly surf punk whose band, the Trashwomen, recorded for Estrus—different cultures, same spirit of freedom. Invariably, weed plays a role in lifestyles like Kreayshawn's, and she embraces hers with pride. Granted, she's acquired some nasty habits along the way—namely cigarettes and cough syrup, or "bo," which she occasionally coats her blunts or cigarettes with. But as anyone on her Twitter stream knows, Mary Jane is a charter member of Kreayshawn's White Girl Mob—alongside her DJ/look-alike, Lil Debbie, and her deeply polarizing partner, V-Nasty. (In fact, according to Kreayshawn in an interview with iHipHop, membership is apparently restricted to weed smok-

'NINETY-NINE PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE THAT ARE HATING ARE FUCKING RAPPERS, AND THEY'RE FUCKING MAD.'

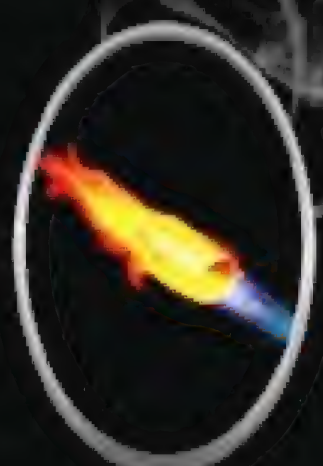
ers.) For special occasions, she'll roll up an "Oreo blunt," instructing her fans thusly: "You take a blunt and then you roll it up, just a normal swisher. So then you put it inside of another blunt with another layer of weed, which you roll it again over. It's like two blunts in one, and those shits get you hella high."

Currently, all eyes will be focused on her major-label debut. In an era where most of her peers DIY, Kreayshawn defends the move as an appropriate choice for someone who, at the time of this interview, didn't even own a car. "I never made art or anything with the intent to get a deal or anything like that," she declares, noting Columbia's stated hands-off approach to her work. "It's like they're giving me the creative freedom to do whatever I want. Shit, I grew up with no fucking money, so if I can get funding behind it and power behind it, why the fuck would I not wanna do that? Can't just keep putting out mix tapes on DatPiff my whole life, can I?"

And, of course, another unexpected turn could take Kreayshawn even further. The Red Hot Chili Peppers chose her to direct the video for "The Adventures of Rain Dance Maggie," the first single off their new album *I'm With You*, and she may just snatch an MTV Video Music Award for Best New Artist from her Odd Future pals, which will rile the trolls even further. After all, a bona fide B-girl/artsy hippie/geek/stoner/hustler—not too many of those out there, and Kreayshawn knows it. "I've always been the odd one out of the bunch," she acknowledges. "That's what's made me so lovable—because I'm comfortable. I'm not like, 'Don't talk to me 'cause I'm a little weird.' I'm like, 'Hey, bitch, I'm here, I'm weird—get used to it.'"



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CANNABIS VS. CANCER

Marijuana: Gateway to Health

Clint Werner

(Dachstar Press)



A timely look at the ongoing battle between the scientific community and the federal government concerning the medicinal properties of cannabis, *Marijuana: Gateway to Health* definitively shows that while the Feds continue to insist that the plant has no accepted medical value and is too dangerous to use, their ignorant position is blatantly contradicted by the results of many promising studies.

Author Clint Werner has carefully examined all of the latest research, and as his book's subtitle ("How Cannabis Protects Us from Cancer and Alzheimer's Disease") suggests, he sees society rapidly entering a new era of understanding about our human relationship with the cannabis plant. Not only can marijuana help treat many serious diseases, he argues, but it also demonstrates remarkable effectiveness as a preventative medicine.

Gateway to Health is divided into two parts: Part I details the science of cannabis's healing properties, and Part II addresses the history of medical marijuana and the political battles being fought to legitimize this helpful plant. Written for the layman, Werner's book does an excellent job of engaging the reader and making scientific concepts clear and easy to understand. He explains the endocannabinoid system that regulates important aspects of human health and proceeds to outline many fascinating facts



about the cancer-fighting properties of cannabinoids, including that "regular, long-term marijuana use may be powerfully protective against developing ... cancer." It appears, for instance, that THC can prevent aggressive tumors from spreading, making it an effective treatment for lung, breast, brain and pancreatic cancers, among others.

Cannabis may also protect the brain against the ravages of Alzheimer's disease with such astonishing success that, as Werner writes, an "urgent move to develop cannabis therapies for Alzheimer's patients should be underway, especially because of the complete lack of effective conventional treatments." He cites the conclusions of a research team in Madrid, who found that "cannabinoids succeed in preventing the neurodegenerative process occurring in the disease."

Loaded with footnotes and packed with information, *Marijuana: Gateway to Health* will teach any skeptic

how medical marijuana heals people and why the continuing prohibition against it is immoral and illogical. While medical marijuana's opponents continue to insist that not enough research has been done, Werner has provided the ammo to fire back in the form of facts and scientific findings, discussing not just the medicinal effects of THC, but also the other cannabinoids such as CBD and CBN; the benefits of the various terpenes; and the phenomenon of cannabinoid-deprivation syndrome. Armed with this information, we must demand that the federal government acknowledge the evidence, reschedule cannabis, and make this healing herb part of a healthy lifestyle for everyone. —Elise McDonough

BASSNECTAR

Divergent Spectrum

(Alpha Pup)



As the North American bass scene continues to grow in numbers and devotion, Bassnectar's Lorin Ashton has emerged as the closest thing the subgenre has to a heritage act. Initially thrusting his distinctive blend of hip-hop, breakbeat, ambient and IDM at burners and hippie beatfreaks throughout the late '90s and into the '00s, Lorin has been elevated to the role of elder statesman thanks to the rise of dubstep in the States. This new audience, simply put, wants it slow, low and dirty, which definitely creates a pressure well above the subfrequency to deliver. So *Divergent Spectrum* finds Lorin giving the people at his (now sold-out) shows what they want—but while it works for them, it means that he isn't thinking as far forward as he once did.

Like most jamband performers, Bassnectar has been playing many of these tracks live for some time before committing them to public record, so the sound on this album is all about atomic drops, buzzy midranges, and little to no subtlety. There are some stylistic experiments here, such as the polyrhythms stashed inside "Red Step" and the foray into drumstep provided by Lorin's remix of drum-and-bass producer Rollz's "Plugged In." And he even reminds people by album's end that he once produced melody back in the day. But, ultimately, this is nothing new for Lorin; he's merely riding a wave that he helped to create—one that he'll hopefully be steering once he settles into his leadership role. —Justin Hampton



Hella

Tripper

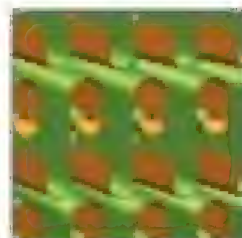
(Sargent House)



On their fifth album, noisy instrumentalists Hella combine several strains of experimentalism to construct a bracing blend of prickly propulsion and rhythmic rumble that's as uniquely enticing as anything they've done.

After bulking up to a five-piece with vocals on 2007's *There's No 666 in Outer Space*, Hella has returned as a duo (guitarist Spencer Seim and drummer Zach Hill, a pair of NorCal veterans who began collaborating a decade ago). *Tripper* combines a hard-edged density reminiscent of math rock, the wild-eyed adventurism of Captain Beefheart, and a heady expansiveness worthy of art rockers King Crimson.

Indeed, Seim's playing recalls Crimson's Adrian Belew conjuring a multitude of odd, squiggly tones, only without benefit of a MIDI attachment. While he applies his share of thunder, Seim's role is that of firmament above the earth-shaking drumming of Hill. One is tempted to imagine Hill as an automaton given how many thwacks he squeezes into a moment, but that would deny the entrancing, unpredictable flow he develops, sweeping the listener up in its energy and providing the bulwark upon which Seim builds his colorful psychedelic guitar canvases. More than any other of their full-length releases, *Tripper* feels like a cohesive album all the way through, from the racing, hard-cornering build of "Self Checkout" through the exquisite melodic drone of "Yubacore" (one of their finest songs ever) to the crushing intensity of the aptly titled "Psycho Bro." Though it's still something of an acquired taste, one day this music will be regarded with the kind of awe that we now accord Pink Floyd releases like *A Saucerful of Secrets* and *Ummagumma*. —Chris Parker



COOKING WITH KEIF

By Scott Bottjer

(Xlibris Corporation)

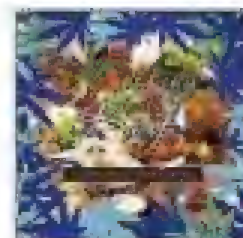


Unless you were raised on a commune, this ain't your mama's cookbook. Though honestly, if your mom's not a smoker, the classic recipes laid out in this easy-to-follow volume will still knock her socks off—just skip the kief infusions if you want to stay out of the doghouse

Native New Yorker Scott Bottjer graduated from New York University with a culinary degree early in life. During those impressionable cooking-school years, he took a trip to Amsterdam that changed his outlook for good. Herbally inspired, Bottjer moved to Northern Cali in 1998 to become a medical-marijuana grower, and also to cultivate his skills as a gourmet chef preparing fine foods infused with the finest in mind-bending herbs.

Bottjer's first goal was to step out of the pot-brownie box and create dishes that were enhanced by cannabis but still retained their scrumptious flavors and "foodie appeal" (i.e., without that planty aftertaste). He walks us through the process of making simple butter, cream, bacon fat and oil infusions and then goes on to showcase sauces like hollandaise and mayonnaise, before getting into complex slathering entrees like crab cakes with lemon-cream sauce and desserts like crème brûlée and tiramisu.

Though the introduction drops a lot of science on the inner workings of kief, much of the information is interesting and worth checking out—and the tips on how to get your kief cooking on without breaking the bank are definitely helpful. —Mary Ought Six



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CHEF RA: a HIGH TIMES LEGEND

FOR TWO DECADES, A SPECIAL SPIRIT WAS AMONG US. BY STEVEN HAGER

I first met Jim Wilson when we both lived in faculty housing at the University of Illinois. My dad was a biochemistry professor and his dad was an assistant track coach. The first time we met, he was chasing me down the sidewalk as I was driving a brand new go-cart for the first time.

"Where'd you get that thing?!" he shouted as he ran after me. At first I was scared. Some black kid I didn't know was chasing me? But when I looked in his eyes, I saw nothing but pure joy. Obviously, there wasn't a mean bone in Jim's body.

Jim and I would shoot baskets together. He was taller and a better athlete than any of us and we knew he had a future in sports. Tragically, Jim's dad died unexpectedly a few years later and he lost his best coach. But he did become a football, basketball and track star at Urbana High School—at least until the civil rights movement and counterculture revolution hit town.

Urbana High School was dominated at the time by a football coach and athletic director named Smitty, who was famous, not just for winning games, but also for inventing the "blaster," a device for training running backs. Smitty was also a bit of a racist.

When I started publishing *The Tin Whistle*, my own underground newspaper in 1968, I delved into the racist policies at the school. Jim had already emerged as a spokesperson for civil rights and was also the starting end on the football team, much beloved by his teammates. Few shared Smitty's disdain for the civil rights. I printed a letter exposing the inequities in the system, which outed Smitty as a primary problem. Smitty called a meeting of all the lettermen and blasted the charges against him. It was a 20-minute tirade and the entire time he stared at Jim Wilson. Although he was the starting end and had already caught six TD passes, Jim never played another game of football. Smitty left him sitting on the bench for the rest of the year. It ended his dream of a football scholarship.

I always felt I'd played a role in that tragedy. But Jim retaliated by becoming our senior class president (the first black to achieve that

goal). He organized several race-awareness events and helped heal a lot of the divisions polarizing the student body. In August 1969, I unexpectedly ran into Jim at the first Woodstock festival. He had the same look on his face when he was chasing me down the sidewalk in fourth grade. After Woodstock, Jim visited Jamaica and was the first person I knew to discover Bob Marley. Immediately, his whole outlook changed. He grew dreads and became known around town as "Rasta"—or "RA" for short.

When I became editor of HIGH TIMES, the first thing I did was organize a photo shoot with Jim hold-

ing a big plate of vegetables and pot for a feature on cooking with marijuana. It was one of the best-selling issues of the year. He would go on to appear on two more covers and contribute a monthly column, "Chef RA's Psychedelic Kitchen."

The legalization movement needed resurgence in the late 1980s, which is one of the reasons I founded the Freedom Fighters, whose goal was to organize rallies around the country. We provided free campgrounds and free food to activists who were traveling to these rallies. Chef RA was the cook at the campground as well as the featured speaker at the rallies. The crowd loved his energy.

I began delving deep into counterculture spirituality because I felt I had an obligation to investigate the history of cannabis and religion if I was going to continue organizing marijuana ceremonies. Eventually, I realized Jim had been a true master of ceremonies his entire life, organizing events and spreading joy wherever he went, whether it was selling Rasta pasta at the Grateful Dead shows, racing his favorite turtle in Southern Illinois, or fishing for catfish on the Mississippi River.

Unfortunately, five years ago, on December 26th, Jim passed away in his sleep at the young age of 55. Hundreds of people from around the country showed for his funeral. Until that day, his family had little idea of the impact he had on all of us. They'll never be another like him, and I miss him more than words can say. ✨



JIM HAD BEEN A TRUE MASTER OF CEREMONIES HIS ENTIRE LIFE, ALWAYS ORGANIZING EVENTS AND SPREADING JOY WHEREVER HE WENT.



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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH ominous words

Ominous Words isn't your average hip-hop artist—a fact borne out by his lyrics, which show the influence of grandmasters like Bob Dylan and Neil Young.

To date, Ominous Words has released four albums and multiple compilation CDs, in addition to collaborating with the likes of KRS-One, Eek-A-Mouse, Pony Boy, B-Real, U-God of Wu-Tang Clan, Akil of Jurassic 5, and more. His most recent track, "Hot Box the Planet," featuring Thoughtsarizen and Ariano, has made it onto the Top 25 online-radio charts for 20 weeks (peaking at number six). He's been featured on numerous albums and skate videos and has also been interviewed across the world, both in print and on air.

Needless to say, Ominous Words has *always* been pro-marijuana—from his outspoken lyrics to his work with pot-law reform activists like Jack Herer, Kris Krane and NORML's Keith Stroup, to his signature series of products from brands like CanaFresh and Dragon Chewer.

Staying true to his art and spreading his message, Ominous Words offers his solo music for free on his website (ominouswords.net). For more information, visit hightimes.com/ominouswords.

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BY BOBBY BLACK

Sex, Dope & Cheap Thrills

PORN STARS AND POTHEADS COMMEMORATE THE WORK OF HUNTER S. THOMPSON.

It's been awhile since I've gone to a *Penthouse* event or partied with the Pets—more specifically, not since I've been off the market. But I've kept in touch with my old pal Lainie Speiser (*Penthouse*'s publicist), and when she sent me an email saying she was promoting a new event put together by *Penthouse* Forum's managing editor (and former HIGH TIMES managing editor) Eric Danville, I was eager to check it out.

"Sex, Dope and Cheap Thrills" was a symposium of sorts, the premise of which was to assemble various adult stars and countercultural icons in a small dive bar on New York's Lower East Side and have them tell stories and answer questions about whatever the titillating topic of the night might be. Tonight, the adult star was *Penthouse* Pet Valentina Vaughn (whom I'd met some years before); the countercultural icon was my colleague Rick Cusick, and the topic was the inimitable Dr. Hunter S. Thompson.

I arrived at the Parkside Lounge just after eight p.m., ordered a Heineken and pulled up a stool right down front. It was about a week before Hunter's birthday, and Danville began the evening by reading the last thing Hunter ever wrote—in effect, his suicide note. Thankfully, things got increasingly less morbid from there on out. The first guest to speak was Cusick, who began by showing off a copy of our September 1977 issue (the first time Thompson appeared on our cover), then telling the tale of how HST had inspired him in his youth.

"It was the fall of 1971, and I was sitting in the bathtub reading *Rolling Stone*," he said, "when I came across a story entitled 'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.' I'd always wanted to be a writer—after reading that, I knew exactly what kind of writer I wanted to be, and that's exactly what I've become. I like to say that Hunter Thompson invented my job."

Next, Rick relayed the tale of how NORML founder Keith Stroup first met Hunter at the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami. NORML had just gotten off the ground, and it was apparently Stroup's first big political event. With the help of *Playboy* magazine—NORML's biggest supporter at the time—he'd managed to wrangle a day pass and made his way to a seat. He wasn't there long before, much to his surprise, he smelled weed. Keith looked all around and eventually realized it was coming from under the bleachers. When he went down to investigate, he encountered a tall, gangly figure huddled in the dark.

"Who are you?" barked the mysterious stoner.

"I'm Keith Stroup from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. Who are you?"



Left to right: Eric Danville, Darren Leung, Rick Cusick and Valentina Vaughn.

"I'm Hunter Thompson," he replied, holding out the joint. "Want a hit?"

But wait—this story gets better. Later that same day, Stroup left the convention looking for weed. His quest to cop led him to a shady spot underneath a eucalyptus tree in People's Park, where a voice from above called out, "How much?"

"Ten dollars," Stroup answered, handing his money up into the tree. A bag of weed dropped down, followed a moment later by none other than Tom Forcade, the founder of HIGH TIMES. Within a year, Forcade had replaced Hugh Hefner as the number one contributor to NORML.

After Cusick's talk came the vivacious Valentina, who performed a Thompson piece entitled *The Night Manager* about his stint running San Francisco's famous Mitchell Brothers O'Farrell Theater in 1985. Originally intended as an article for *Playboy*, the story eventually evolved into a full-length novel—an excerpt of which ended up in *Kingdom of Fear*. Needless to say, listening to Valentina speak about porno, dildos and live sex shows had the men in the room at full attention.

Finally, Danville introduced the panel's last guest—Darren Leung, president and proprietor of Manhattan's Westside Rifle & Pistol Range—to address one of Thompson's other great passions: guns. Leung spoke about the joys of gun ownership and the importance of the NRA, and compared the government's attempts to stop law-abiding citizens from acquiring firearms to its policy of persecuting drug users. Rick ended the "gun" portion of the evening with the story behind the now-infamous photo of Hunter being knocked on his ass by an exploding propane canister with a picture of Reagan stuck to it.

After the speeches and stories were done, Danville opened up the floor to questions. I'd already heard most of what Rick knew about Hunter, and since Vaughn would most likely be unwilling to do any of the things we were all thinking about asking of her, I directed my question to Leung instead.

"Do you know what guns Hunter had in his collection," I asked, "and if he had any favorites?" But neither Leung nor anyone else on the panel knew the answer; the only gun we were all sure about was the .45-caliber pistol Hunter used to take his own life. Whether you feel his suicide was an act of strength and bravery or selfishness and cowardice, there's no denying that Thompson ended his life the way he lived it—on his own terms. I never had the pleasure of meeting the Great Gonzo before he left this world, but if I did, I suppose I would've echoed the words of my HIGH TIMES colleague:

Thanks, Hunter ... for inventing my job. ✨



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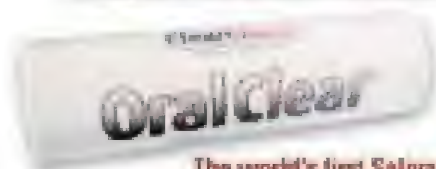


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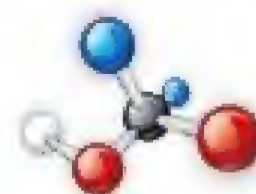
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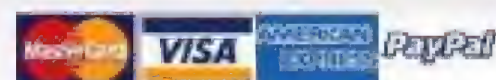
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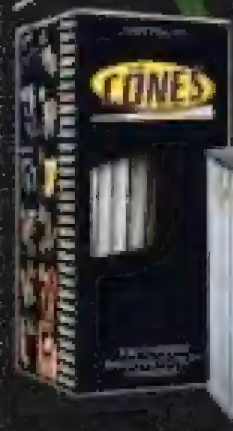
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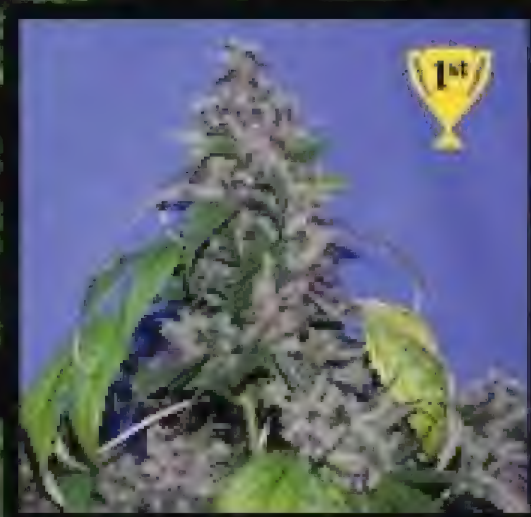
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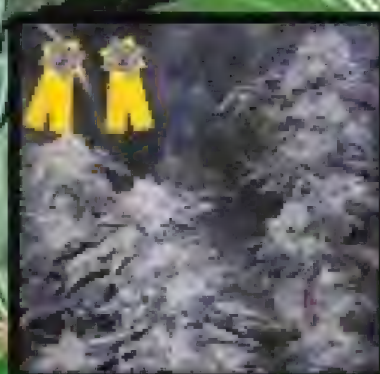
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2011 GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

OUR CULTIVATION CORRESPONDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THIS YEAR'S GROWING SEASON, FROM WEATHER PATTERNS AND STRAIN CHOICES TO HUGE YIELDS OF BUMPER CROPS. COMPILED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

California

As you might guess, HIGH TIMES spends a lot of time in California. We even have a satellite office out there these days, not to mention holding two Medical Cannabis Cups in San Francisco in the past two years. Today, a few things are clear when it comes to the state of cannabis in Cali.

To start with, California is hands down the world's leading producer of cannabis. This is no small claim, especially considering the spaciousness and political climate (or lack thereof) in our neighbors to the north and south. But Mexican and Canadian production have both taken a hit in the past decade, due largely to the lull in demand for their product in the US. There is one big reason for this: medical marijuana, plus the ensuing onslaught of US states legalizing it. Of course, California is the reason we have medical marijuana in the US, thanks to Proposition 215, which was passed way back in 1996. And California still leads the way when it comes to the production and science of cannabis, with Colorado coming in as a distant second.

While it may be surprising to some to think that California can out-produce countries such as Mexico, Canada or even areas of Africa like Morocco with its mountains of marijuana plantations, we must remember that California is the site of regular DEA raids (thanks a lot, Obama) that bust up farms containing *tens of thousands of plants*—and those busts have just scratched the surface of what's really going on in the wild West Coast. It's a safe bet that even the indoor growers over in Holland would be in awe of the vast amounts of cannabis harvested every fall in NorCal.

Okay, but quantity aside, what about quality? Well, that's an interesting topic of debate. While Amsterdam, Denver or Vancouver can't argue much with total production stats, they may very well lay claim to having the best strains on the planet. And with good reason: Amsterdam and Vancouver have been in the game for quite some time, and we all know they both have some truly excellent varieties. In fact, both the Netherlands

and Canada can be viewed, in a manner of speaking, as the *capo di tutti capi* when it comes to breeding and strain hybridization (for better and for worse). But California, at least these days, is home to some of the world's most popular genetics (OG Kush, Sour Diesel, Granddaddy Purple, Grape Ape—the list goes on and on). Some attribute this to the sheer size of the state's population and also the fact that it's squarely within the US marketplace, which is also a trendsetter. However, there is one other state that also has a more than reasonable place in this debate: Colorado.

So as a little experiment, we decided to put our new HIGH TIMES Cannabis Scoring System (unveiled in early 2011 at the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver) to the test and use the results from the Medical Cups in both Denver and San Francisco this year to find out exactly who has the best-quality herb in the country. (And if you come from some other state that also wants in on this debate, email us and we'll hold a Cup in your town!) The scoring system is completely numeric and relies on a two-page score sheet. One page goes to the judges and is completely qualitative in nature, accounting for 70 percent of the total score. The other page is completely quantitative and relies solely on the results from lab testing. So who do you think won when the results from both states were matched against each other?

Taking into consideration the differences in the judges' personal preferences, it's fair to assume a plus/minus differential of one or two points (meaning that, for all intents and purposes, any scores within that differential are basically equal). So, with that in mind, the envelope, please ... and wouldn't you know it, we have a tie! Toting up the average scores of the first-place winners in the three main flower categories (*sativa*, *indica* and hybrid), the results are 77.5 for San Francisco, and 79.6 for Denver.

Well, Cali, it looks like you guys will have your work cut out for you in 2012!— **Nico, HT Cultivation Editor**



Indoor growers
anticipate bumper
crops of buds.

NEW YORK

Lawmakers continue to stall the inevitable medical marijuana bill in New York State, but patients did get a bit of good news recently when Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that he was softening his stance and willing to review the issue further. If the state does pass legislation, growers and investors are poised to set up shop here in “New Amsterdam” (a.k.a. New York City), as well as all over the rest of the state. Now that gay marriage has passed, city residents and upstate tokers alike have turned their efforts to getting marijuana law reform passed as soon as possible.

New York smokers have been appreciating an influx of new strains along with old standbys such as the notorious Sour Diesel. A few extreme *sativas* have entered the market, with Nigerian Silk, Vietnamese Dalat and Dr. Grinspoon leading the way. These varieties produce an electric, uplifting high that’s truly appreciated on the busy streets of the Big Apple.

A brutal heat wave followed by near drought-like conditions did some serious damage to the outdoor grows upstate. Smart farmers set up strong greenhouses and watered by hand, sometimes twice a day, to keep their plants happy and healthy during the tough dog days of summer. Those that made it through August were able to appreciate a mild fall and a nice harvest come early October to salvage what could have been a disastrous season.

New Yorkers entered the Thanksgiving season with plenty to appreciate—and much to look forward to in the coming months as well. —**Danny Danko, HT Senior Cultivation Editor**

COLORADO

In Colorado, 2011 was another successful year in the progress of our medical marijuana movement (and industry), both for the state and the country. The Rocky Mountain State hosted its first-ever HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver and saw the return of the Bong-a-thon, a stoner favorite, for the first time in 12 years.

Enthusiastic participants were lucky to attend one of the top marijuana events in the world at the Medical Cannabis Cup this past April. A panel of expert judges from within the local medical industry had a week to agree on the best *sativas*, *indicas* and hybrids, as well as the many different solvent and non-solvent concentrates. In the end, it was clear that this event rivaled any of the other primo pot competitions out there and made a huge statement about the quality of herb in CO (we’re looking at you, Cali).

Not only did Colorado host some great ganja events in 2011, but it also continued its progress in setting the standards for the medical community across the country. A state that was once referred to as the “green-rush state” a couple of years back because of the almost total absence of regulations, is now on its way to becoming a well-oiled (and regulated) machine—a machine that continues to create legitimate jobs for an entire industry, produces tons of revenue for the state, and earns local business owners a living in this tough economy.

Mother Nature has blessed the central state with a good deal of rain and sunshine week after week in the summer of 2011. This allowed gardens to flourish in what is sometimes a tricky growing environment, largely due to the brutal, impromptu storms. Even though greenhouses are not a large

The Colorado cure
has an edge in the
US Med Cup race.



part of the medical growing scene yet, more and more of them are popping up across Colorado, making what was already a pot-enriched state more bountiful with the popular flower.

Some of the strains that seemed to dominate the past year in Colorado include a few Chemdog crosses, such as Snowdew (which took home the first-place *sativa* honors at the Denver Cup) and Whitedew. Other popular strains include Banana Kush, Island Sweet Skunk, Durban Poison, and the ever-popular Skunk/Northern Lights hybrid that

floats around the state under various names, depending on who you’re talking to.

With the medical movement getting stronger and stronger every month, and with great events and organizations like SAFER (Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation) doing their share, there’s no doubt that Colorado will continue to be a large part of the Global Harvest Report and the source of great medical –marijuana success stories in the future. Keep growing, Colorado!

— **Felix Green, HT Cultivation Correspondent**

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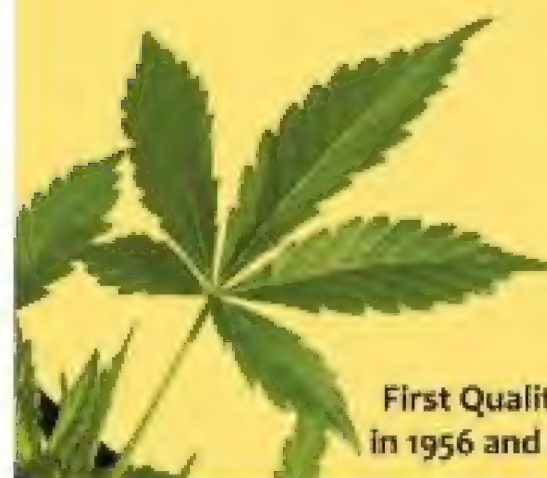
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Hawaii

“Sustainable” and “underground” are probably the two words that best describe the Hawaiian grow scene. Hawaii has some of the craziest rules of any of the 16 medical marijuana states, and many essential cultivation products must be imported, which means that the demand and price for supplies here are both high. Growing in Hawaii just isn’t as cheap or as easy as it is for the rest of the country: The Hawaiian grower is typically a very determined and dedicated individual who grows a higher grade of pot for his (or her) own personal use, plus a small circle of friends and workers.

The laws of Hawaii allow you to cultivate medical marijuana, but you cannot purchase the plant in clone form or seeds anywhere on the islands. Also, there are no dispensaries here because the sale of marijuana is prohibited. So if you really think about it, all you can do is grow it!

A large influx of imported California buds seems to dominate the Hawaiian market. Popular strains like Sour Diesel, Blue Dream and Bubba Kush are easy to find, and so are lots of high-quality extracts. While traveling in Hawaii, it’s not uncommon to come across some proper bubble hash or even some great Nepalese temple balls that rival any non-solvent hash. With real estate at such a premium on these islands, it’s no surprise that it’s much easier to import than grow.

That doesn’t mean there aren’t people here taking the risk to grow indoors and out. The main island of Hawaii is where most of the large outdoor grow operations are based, mainly because of logistics: It’s really the only island where you can hope to keep it “off the grid” and away from helicopter recon missions. Native strains like the Blood, Maui Wowie, the Death and the Widow seem to account for the majority of the pot being grown by old-school Hawaiian farmers and families.

Personal growers still hold their own in the islands, especially when it comes to unique and flavorful varieties.

Next time you’re in Honolulu (or on the island of Oahu), hopefully you’ll be fortunate enough to come across some tasty Raspberry deliciousness—all-medical, usually all-organic, and one hell of a smoke. Aloha!—**Felix Green, HT Cultivation Correspondent**

BC/Vancouver

Cannapharm legally cultivates medical cannabis under federal guidelines here in Canada. One of the hottest strains in their line-up is a rare (and, at one time, very tightly held) Kush variety known as Tuna. This particularly hard-hitting Kush strain has only occasionally surfaced outside of some very select circles over the last 10 years in British Columbia’s Lower Mainland.

It’s rumored that the strain gets its name from its incredibly strong aroma, as well as the fact that at one time it was only available in tin cans (you actually had to use a can opener to get your buds out). Sounds like overkill? Well, it wasn’t at all—if you’ve ever had the pleasure of handling some Pharm’d Tuna, you already know that penetrating odor and can certainly agree that these crystal-laden buds are worthy of increased protection in handling to preserve all of their connoisseur qualities. And Cannapharm grows all of their Tuna using the Advanced Nutrients line, so you know it’s as potent as it’s going to get.

Cannapharm has been able to bridge the gap between quiet success and widespread availability with this amazing strain, and they proudly offer it to Canadian patients who are authorized to purchase it under Canada’s Medical Marijuana Access Division. Each package of medical-grade, high-potency Tuna buds even has a special embossed security sticker assuring the purchaser that they’ve in fact



BC is still one of the largest cannabis producing regions in the world.

received the real deal.

Tuna grows tall and lanky and requires a serious amount of veg time to achieve enough stature to offer respectable yields per plant. These buds are grown in soil to help bring out the complexity in their aroma and flavor while delivering the potency that Tuna tokers seek. Flowering time is typically eight to nine weeks, with at least a two-week flush period to help remove any excess nutrients from the growing medium and plant, delivering nothing but nature’s medicine for those fortunate enough to get their hands on it.

Patients who prefer the strong effects of strains like Bubba Kush and OG Kush have turned to the Tuna for its potency, and they report that it’s especially helpful for those who have developed high tolerances for their medicine and who enjoy the euphoric feeling along with the stronger physical effects.—**Erik Biksa, HydroponicsAccess.com**

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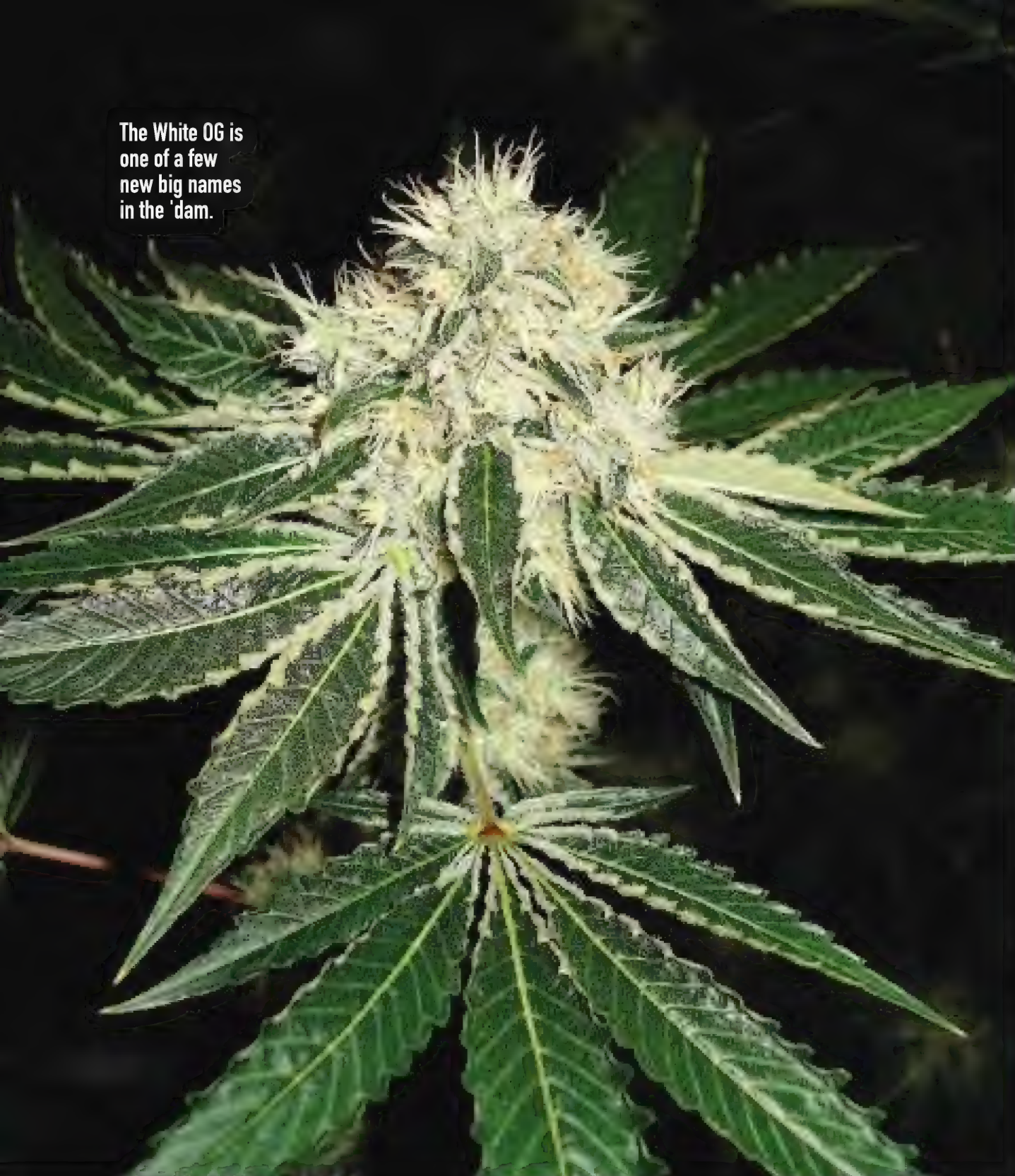
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The White OG is one of a few new big names in the 'dam.



AMSTERDAM

There are several new things to report in Holland this year. For starters, the Kushes have finally been making their way onto the menu in various coffeeshops. They first began turning up after the introduction a few years back of the OG 18 and LA Confidential. One of the more notable new arrivals this year is the White OG from Karma Genetics, which won third place at last year's Cannabis Cup. This is one of the few new strains popping up sporadically on several menus this year. There have been a few other Kushes appearing in shops like the Bluebird, the Katsu, the Grey Area and the Hunter's. The problem is that they sell out as quickly as they come in—and when they do arrive, it's always in small amounts.

The Amnesia Haze is very prevalent these days, appearing under multiple names on menus across town. You can find it as Super Silver Haze, Bubblegum Haze and even just plain Haze. Most of the Amnesia being grown originates from the Hy-Pro cut. Hy-Pro is a nutrient and seed company in the south of Holland. The owner created Amnesia Haze in the late '80s (or early '90s) as well as a nutrient line. Both the nutes and the Amnesia have won countless prizes in Dutch and world competitions over the years. What's nice about the nutrient line is that it's inexpensive and it works, delivering huge yields and buds with a phenomenal taste. It's also incredibly simple to use—for soil there's a one-part formula, and for hydro a standard two-part A and B mix. They also have an excellent foliar feed and rooting stimulator.

As far as tech goes, things usually stay relatively the same around here, as most Dutch growers have a hard time breaking their old habits and adopting new technology in their grows. That said, there are still some new tech advances that are slowly being incorporated into grow shops and growrooms. These would include the introduction of CO₂ as well as the new digital ballasts (and the bulbs that go with them). I know that for American growers, CO₂ is nothing new, but it's taken quite some time for it to be more widely used here in Holland.

One last notable change was seen in September and October with the introduction of feminized autoflowering seeds to the local outdoor grow scene. The benefit with these seeds, of course, is that the plants finish early, which in our northern climate can be quite handy, as it tends to get cold in the beginning of October. The reports on their yields have also been good, so it'll be interesting to see how the finished fruit tastes come harvest time. —Harry Resin, HT Cultivation Correspondent

THE AMNESIA HAZE IS VERY PREVALENT THESE DAYS, APPEARING UNDER MULTIPLE NAMES ON MENUS ACROSS TOWN.



BRAZIL

The day when people will be able to smoke a carefully grown Manga Rosa on a pearly white, sandy beach while looking at the emerald green ocean and enjoying a caipirinha may not be too far off. Brazil, like Mexico and Colombia, is a raging battlefield in the War on Drugs, but the times seem to be a-changing. In 2006, a clumsy law tried to decriminalize personal use, and although it's possible to smoke a joint with relative safety on beaches, in public squares and in the streets, a crooked and murderous police force keeps on killing, arresting and extorting users, growers and dealers, relying on an overly conservative judicial system to support its corruption.

But the public debate has been blown wide open thanks to the initiatives taken by the Brazilian Marijuana March—bigger, stronger and more widespread every year—as well as the many public authorities and major media conglomerates that have come out of the closet on this subject. In May of this year, the brutal repression of marijuana activists by the police in São Paulo sparked an angry backlash and forced the Brazilian Supreme Court to rule on a petition in favor of the Marijuana March, which had been ignorantly prohibited by many municipal courts in previous years. And now it seems that we'll be able to legalize the medicinal and religious use of marijuana, as well as home growing, sooner than we once thought.

This cultural history—including the fact that marijuana is a part of many native religions in Brazil—has resulted in a unique genetic heritage used to create such strains as White Widow, Bahia Black Head, El Niño and Leda Uno. In the northeast of the country—one of our primary cannabis-producing regions—you will find the aforementioned fabled

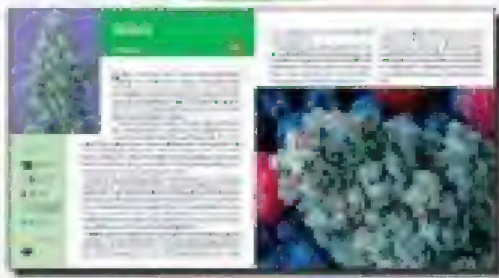


Prensado, brick weed, schwag. Call it what you want but it's a nice *sativa* any way you slice it.

Manga Rosa strain, a gentle *sativa* with a very cerebral high and a pinkish tone to the buds. However, it's generally cultivated for the local markets, which means that the strain doesn't often find its way to the southeast of Brazil, where São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are located. Those cities have their weed supply coming mainly from Paraguay:

It's called *prensado*, which refers more to the packaging method (in which the buds are pressed together in a brick) than its genetic heritage, which is very hard to trace. Growers who venture to plant this seed usually find that it's a *sativa* made for the outdoors, which often makes growing her inside a tricky enterprise.

The indoor grow scene is widespread in Brazil, with Internet forums such as Growroom.net (which has over 40,000 active accounts) providing a solid database for the amateur grower. "The climate in Brazil is good, the land is well-suited, and there's lots of sun for outdoor growing. But for safety reasons, most growers choose to go inside and take care of their plants without worrying about nosy neighbors," notes William Lantelme, the founder of Growroom.net. One thing's for sure: With today's information and technology, Brazil is quickly catching up to the other big marijuana-producing nations. After all, we have the space and the manpower to make it happen. — Pedro Nogueira

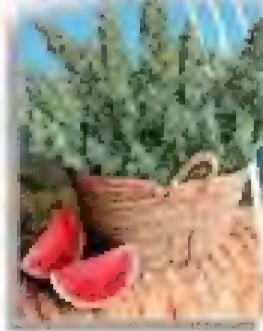


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Growing weed in the outback has its disadvantages... but also some big bonuses!

Australia

As is usual in Australia, extreme weather conditions over the summer months wreaked havoc not only with the quality and yield of our outdoor crops, but also their very existence. In the past few years, terrible bushfires sent most of Australia's top-quality herb up in smoke—and not in the good way. This year, the extreme flooding in the state of Queensland washed away numerous large-scale grows.

Consequently, the void has been filled by some of the country's more pioneering indoor growers. This year, real efforts were made to deliver a product akin to what one finds in the US and European markets (a notion that was previously nonexistent amongst Aussie connoisseurs). Success was achieved with quality strains such as the Super Lemon Haze, which proved extremely popular not only for its potency, but also its sweet scent. Alaskan Ice was also a rare find, but an extremely pleasant and welcome one to the locals.

Given the failure of a large chunk of our outdoor crops, one would have expected the prices to skyrocket, as we've indeed experienced in recent years. Strangely, however, this year the prices have actually fallen, with quarter-ounce bags now costing around Au\$75 (\$79 US).

The outlook for "mul" (our slang term for "weed") is looking better than ever in Australia. Even though the weather has been unkind, the ingenuity and tenacity of the Australian grower is starting to prevail, producing high-quality cannabis that can truly hold its own in the global marketplace. —Conrad McGilligan



Newer varieties are permeating the Mexican grow scene and mixing with the landraces.

Mexico

This year's harvest south of the border may as well be known as "Harvest Season of the Dead." It certainly seemed to be the Day of the Dead here all year long, with 30,000 to 40,000 *narco-muertos* having occurred in Mexico since President Felipe Calderón of the PAN coalition took office and began his anti-crime campaign. The country is bristling with huge weapons in the hands of young men dressed like storm troopers. Random roadblocks and checkpoints outfitted with heavy machine guns mounted on pickup trucks Somalia-style are everywhere, but the beat goes on and Americans are still smoking plenty of Mexican sinsemilla nuggets. The

small farmers are the ones being hurt the most, and the bulk of the nation's soldiers have been deployed in the indigenous regions. Hardball tactics are being used against the most peaceful and benign of farmers, while over in Sinaloa, home of a powerful cartel, the largest marijuana farm in the history of Mexican drug enforcement was discovered this past July. Mexicans are wondering why the Obama administration continues to fund such blatant human-rights violations.

It is difficult—almost impossible—to harvest, cure and dry any plants before the rains stop in early November. The first *colitas* we can smoke arrive around Christmas time, but the best are

harvested in late spring before the next rainy season begins. Photoperiod—the varying length of the day's natural sunlight—is not as much of a factor here because of our proximity to the equator. The rainy season is the bigger factor: Rain in Mexico is a good thing, and last year we were blessed. The original landrace *sativa* (think Oaxacan or Acapulco Gold) still grows wild, but the producers now plant a *criollo* variety that produces two- to three-foot-tall spikes. The plants look like they're from Afghanistan, with broad leaves and dense tops, more *ruderalis* than *indica*. The smoke is dark and hashy, and sticky oil clogs the big joints we roll. The product is sold in rolled-up newspapers, thick tubes called *huatos*, and the supply is inexhaustible. A kilo of gooey buds with almost no seeds goes for around \$300 or less! But genetically superior seeds are scarce, and because of the high cost of government electricity, greenhouses and indoor growrooms are scarce as well. We grow outdoors beneath the hot chili-pepper sun, and the gardens love it.

As for the future, we shall prevail! Despite recent legislation that legalized the possession of small amounts of almost every kind of drug, drug use among young people has not increased. Groups all over Mexico are looking to the future of medical marijuana, with even the most conservative acknowledging that it has its uses as a light analgesic, good for combating the symptoms of stress and anxiety. (Have you ever felt those?) Here in Oaxaca, Dr. Cesar Chavez founded AMMO, the Oaxaca Medical Marijuana Association (email ammooax@gmail.com for more info), and he's lobbying the Oaxacan government to fund medical-marijuana research with the hope of supplying international markets. —Jack Chastaine



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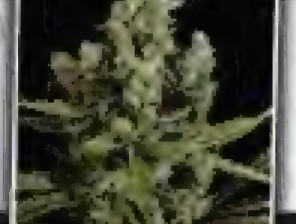
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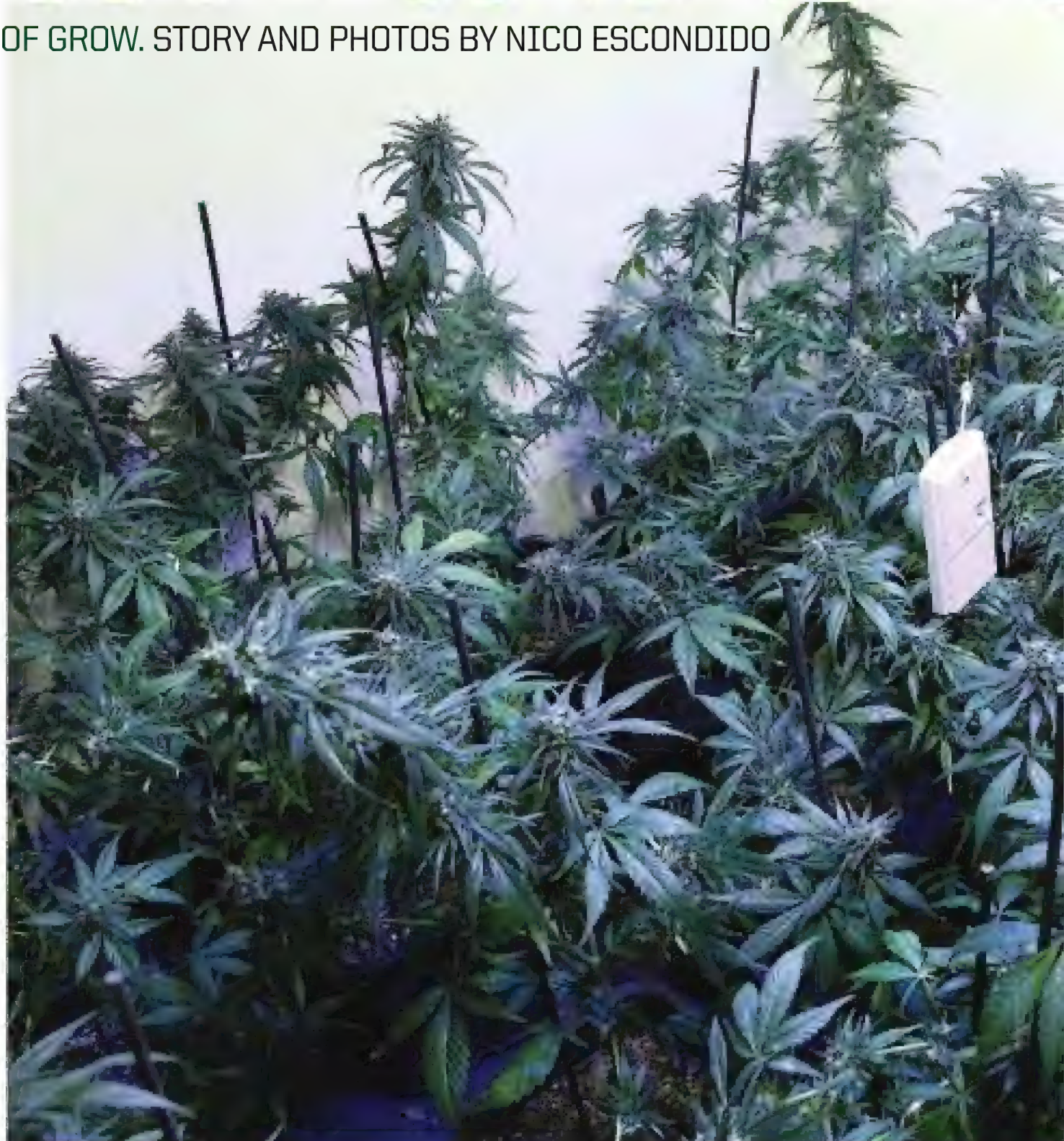
A RENAISSANCE IS BLOOMING IN THE HOLY LAND OF GROW. STORY AND PHOTOS BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Over the years, the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department has written extensively on the grow scene in Amsterdam and throughout Holland. These stories have always presented plenty of information, theory and technique on cannabis cultivation—but still, in recent years, it's been hard not to feel a little disappointed with the Dutch horticulture scene, as there has seemed to be a bit of a drop-off in the latest research, development and application of new technologies.

After all, this is the place where the big agriculture industry first brought hydroponics to the forefront of commercial growing for vegetables, flowers and, eventually, cannabis. The Dutch really helped to promote the art of indoor growing and were largely responsible for the advent of major developments in indoor gardening, such as the use of artificial grow mediums like rockwool and hardened expanded clay aggregate and the fully automated delivery of nutrient solution to entire gardens. They were there at the outset of high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting and atmospheric control, and they were among the first to propagate cannabis via the cloning method, as Amsterdam has always been at the crossroads of the genetics trade.


So it was something of a relief—if not downright exciting—to discover, on my recent foray into Amsterdam's cultivation industry, that there seems to be a grow renaissance developing: one that barely existed just six months ago, as the technology is truly in its infancy in terms of the commercial hydroponics market. Still, new advances in both lighting and grow substrates are now taking root in growrooms in the world's First City of Cannabis.

With that in mind, here's a firsthand look at what's on the horizon for indoor growers.





This seed lab is running three 1000-watt double-ended digital bulb & ballast lamps as well as a specialized plasma lamp (center), all by Gavita.



DNA Genetics is using soilless mixtures and new lighting technology to produce their award winning seeds.

LIGHTING

If you've been keeping up with the latest in the world of HID lighting, you already know about the serious technology gap that exists between HID bulbs and the newer electronic and digital ballasts used to power up the lamps. Traditionally, HID bulbs were ignited using magnetic (or core-and-coil) ballasts, and these are still an option for indoor growers. However, electronic and digital ballasts are more efficient in using electricity and usually emit less heat than their magnetic predecessors. (Note: The terms "electronic" and "digital" ballasts are basically interchangeable, as are the terms "magnetic," "traditional" or "core-and-coil" ballasts.)

The problem, however, isn't one of power consumption or processing; it's more about how that power is outputted and the frequency at which these ballasts operate. Traditional magnetic ballasts operate at approximately 40 to 50 hertz, whereas electronic ballasts come in at a whopping 20,000 hertz—yet 99 percent of the HID bulbs on the market were designed for the earlier magnetic ballasts and are not compatible with today's newer electronic ballasts.

This may sound confusing at first, especially since any standard HID bulb will still fire up with an electronic ballast—but what we've learned is that the average lifespan of these bulbs is shortened by almost 50 percent when using this combination. What occurs inside the bulb is known as *acoustic resonance*, whereby the increased frequency of the electronic ballast actually causes the light arc in the inner tube of the bulb to fluctuate at a much more erratic and unstable rate, causing small ruptures within the inner glass envelope of the bulb where the light is produced. Not only does this shorten the life of the bulb, but it can also cause unsafe leakage of the gases (such as sodium and mercury) inside.

In the years since this fact was discovered, growers have had few options: They could either continue using the traditional magnetic ballasts, or they could use an electronic ballast and buy twice as many of the standard HID bulbs each year, or they could try to hunt down the new digital bulbs made by Sun Pulse, the only company known to commercially sell such items to local hydro shops. But the first option isn't quite progress, the second wastes extra dollars, and the third was hard to come by, since many shops had trouble stocking the limited quantities of digital bulbs available.

ADVANCED AMSTERDAM

Enter Gavita. Gavita is a specialty lighting company that designs high-end (complete lamp kits with ballast and bulb runs between \$400-\$600 each) gear for the professional horticulturalist. Philips, on the other hand, serves the horticultural market through a few selected business partners. Philips develops and manufactures high quality horticultural lamps, but generally for large scale agriculture uses. However, Philips specifically designed these bulbs for use in electronic ballasts where its business partners build the complete luminaries or lamp set. Nowhere are conditions as harsh for a luminary than in a greenhouse. Gavita is one of the specialized business partners that develops and builds those lamp sets. It is also the oldest Dutch specialized horticultural lighting company. And they are no strangers to science. Their light sciences lab in Holland is keenly aware of the problems facing end users, particularly in the field of indoor grow lighting.

Their solution? To create a professional and intelligent lamp design for smaller end-users by converting their top-of-the-line luminaries to work on 240V, because these horticultural fixtures normally run on 400V as is common for industrial operations. It sounds simple, but it wasn't.

First of all, we need to understand what exactly is so special about these electronics and Philips bulbs. To start, they are paired, meaning that the Philips electronics (inside the ballasts) are finely tuned to the optimal frequency, voltage and power that should be delivered to that specific bulb for optimal output, optimal spectrum and optimal light maintenance. Philips knew that for a high frequency electronic ballast you would need a special bulb, and they made them too: The Philips Master Greenpower EL (Electronic) series, available in 600W and 1000W. They operate at high voltage and very high frequencies well above 100,000 Hz (three to five times higher than the average digital ballast).

Unfortunately, the electronics were only available for high industrial voltages (400V). It wasn't until Philips (after many requests) came out with a 240V 600W version that it became finally available for the hobby grower. Gavita saw the opportunity and developed a new 240V electronic adjustable ballast to drive the Philips 1000W electronic HPS bulb and the Gavita Pro-Line was born. It instantly began winning awards for the best new lighting product in Europe during 2010.

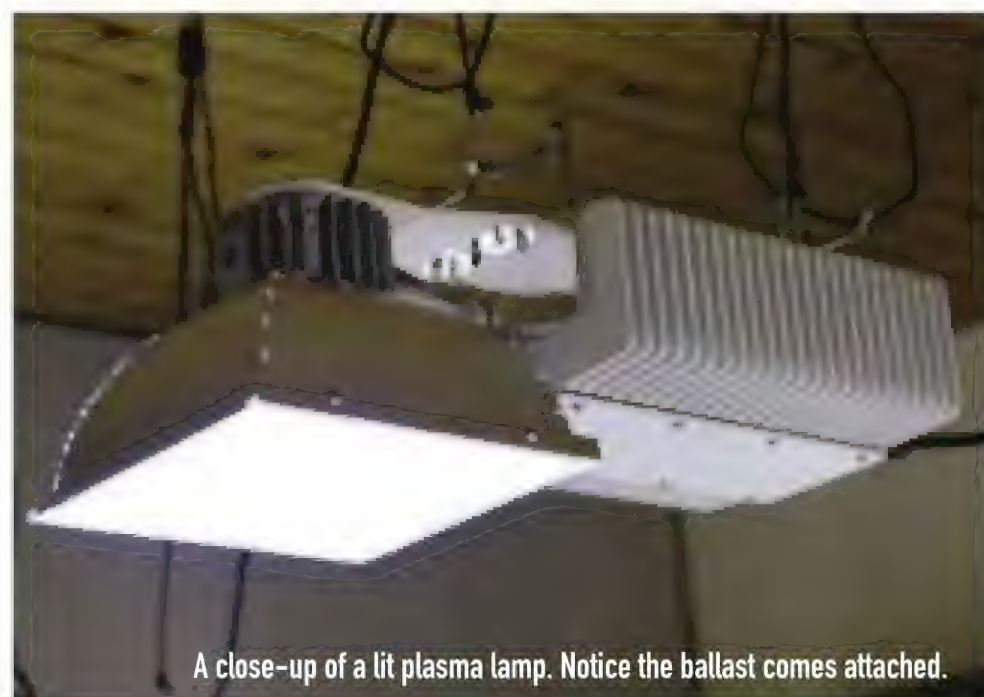
Today, you no longer have to be a greenhouse professional like Monsanto or Green Giant to have high-grade, professional equipment at your disposal. These new developments allow growers in countries within the EU and North America to use this electronic ballast and digital bulb kit in any size garden, from a closet grow to a larger format commercial operation like you might find in Canada or in a medical state within the US. Perhaps more importantly, growers can now get the full benefits of using an efficient electronic ballast as well as the added bonus of the enhanced output and spectrum of the Philips electronic bulbs.

GAVITA'S LIGHT-SCIENCES LAB

Philips, which is not generally known for its support of the cannabis industry, agreed to the deal largely because Gavita was able to create enough levels of separation between the bulb manufacturer and the end user, thereby not tying Philips to the "hydroponics industry" (which, oddly, is how they like to refer to cannabis growers). Once Gavita developed the ballasts to run on a 240-volt current and still be able to light the 400-volt digital bulbs, they packaged them together into complete kits for direct distribution to stores and other large grow distributors. The catch, however, is that these digital Philips bulbs are not your standard screw-socket bulbs. Instead, they are double-ended, wire-tab bulbs, meaning they will only fit into the specially designed Gavita ballasts.

Visiting Gavita's light-sciences lab, it soon became clear that this is for the best, since the rare combination of a lower-voltage ballast with a high-frequency bulb can become unstable and even dangerous if the bulb is used in conjunction with an incompatible ballast.

The Gavita lab is largely responsible for the research and development that went into the redesign, and many of the lamp kits are tested and assem-



A close-up of a lit plasma lamp. Notice the ballast comes attached.



This wall meter is used to test the light distribution properties of the lamp's bulb-reflector combination.



This integrating sphere diffuses and reflects light, helping scientists measure a bulb's power.



An unlit plasma lamp. The bulb is as tiny as a coin!

bled at the company's facility just outside Amsterdam. The scientists at the lab say they needed the bulbs to be able to handle at least 100,000 hertz to be sure they'd remain stable. That's why they were attracted to the double-ended Philips digital bulbs, as they eliminate the acoustic resonance created by high-frequency electronic ballasts. These bulbs are not only more stable, but they produce 8% more light than the leading bulbs on the market and, over a two-year span, lose less than 10% of their intensity. Additionally, the ballasts are designed to be dimmable, giving growers plenty of leeway in terms of light intensity. Although the 400-volt Philips bulbs are only produced in a 1,000-watt size, the dimmable electronic ballasts allow growers to run them at 600, 660, 750, 825, 1,000 or 1,150 watts—six different intensity levels from one digital bulb.

The Gavita Pro 1000 DE and the HortiStar 1000 DE are the first fixtures to run on 240-volt current and house the Philips GreenPower EL 1,000-watt bulb. The Pro 1000 DE comes with the ballast attached to the bulb housing, while the HortiStar is constructed to have the ballast work remotely. (For more information, visit Gavita-Holland.com.)



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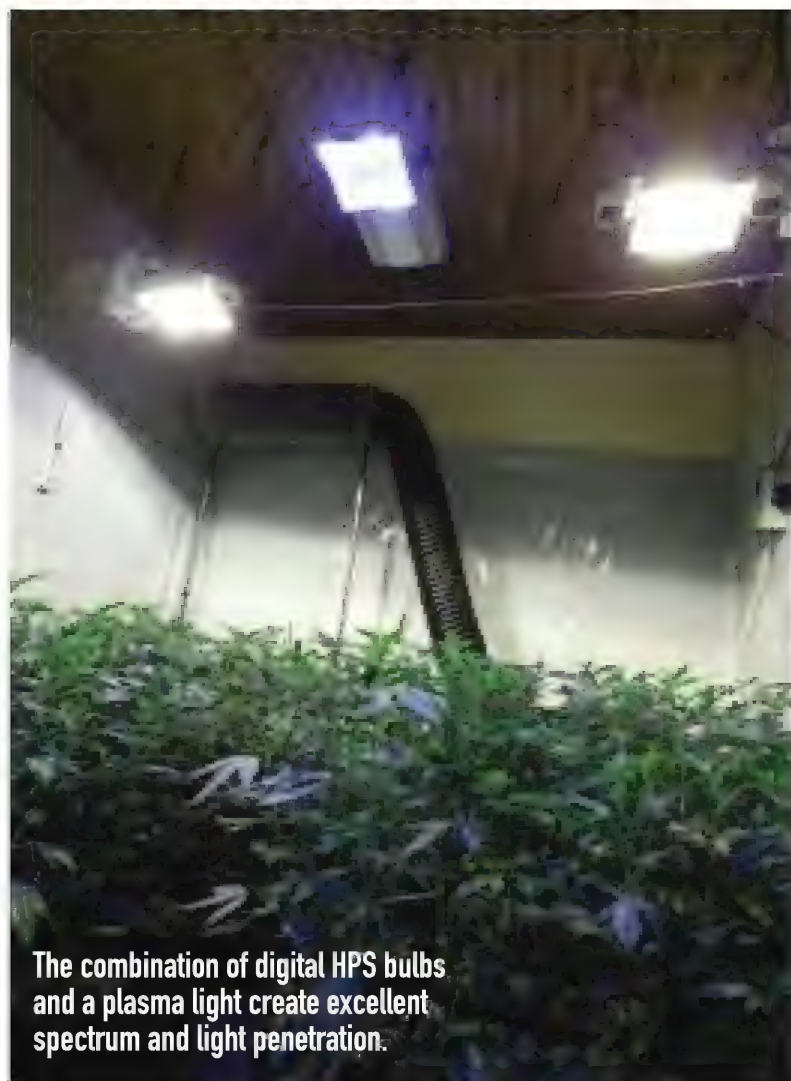
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THE FUTURE OF HORTICULTURAL LIGHTING

Sounds pretty great, right? Couldn't get any better, right? Well, it can ... and it will. While visiting that über light lab in Holland, I saw one other standout piece of equipment that cannot go unmentioned: the Gavita plasma-lamp rig. If you really want to get deep into light science and talk about the best spectrum for plants from an artificial light source, plasma lighting is where it's at. The Gavita Pro 300 LEP (light-emitting plasma) produces light with a spectrum similar to the sun's natural light and is broader in scope (a.k.a., full, continuous, wide-spectrum light) than any other bulb on the market to date. It's the first of its kind in terms of horticultural solid-state plasma lighting.

For those unfamiliar with the technology, the light is generated by exciting plasma contained in an enclosed transparent envelope or bulb. These plasma lights—which were originally invented by Nikola Tesla over 100 years ago—are energized by radio frequency (RF) power and are electrode-less. The bulbs are small, extremely efficient and filled with plasma from one of the six noble gases: helium (He), neon (Ne), argon (Ar), krypton (Kr), xenon (Xe) and the radioactive radon (Rn). These gases are mixed with other materials such as metal halides, sodium, mercury or sulfur, which helps to increase the energy state when the plasma is excited with RF. In operation, the gases are ionized and an accelerated electrical field is created. During this process, free electrons collide with metal and gas ions within the envelope and eventually release photons, creating light. Depending on the gases used, this light may be visible or ultraviolet—the latter an alluring attraction for growers on its own.

In terms of efficiency, plasma lamps score high marks when you consider the power they use and the light they produce. However, if you define efficiency as micromoles per watt, then high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs are still far superior. But if your definition of efficiency stresses light quality and spectrum, then plasma lamps win outright. In short, for *quality* of light, nothing beats plasma, but for *quantity* of light, standard HPS bulbs are still the best bet.



The DNA seed labs shown in this article, as well as this seeded top cola, are all products of new grow technology.

DNA GENETICS AND THE FUTURE OF HIGH-QUALITY CANNABIS

So where does all this leave the indoor grower? Well, considering the high price tag associated with plasma lights (though that cost is rapidly coming down), plus the need to use nearly twice as many if you were to replace your HPS lamps over an entire garden, it doesn't make sense just yet to make a complete switch to plasma. However, while I was researching these lamps and looking for a few friendly partners to snap some photos of them in action over cannabis plants, one well-known company came along to offer up their gardens for a tour. Who else but DNA Genetics Amsterdam?

We all know DNA from their continual conquest of the Cannabis Cup and other ganja competitions around the globe. We all know they pride themselves on providing the highest-quality genetics and seeds possible. But what some people might not know about great cannabis breeders in

general (not just DNA) is that they're also on the front lines when it comes to scouring the industry for the latest equipment to produce their high-quality product. Nothing could be more important for these premier breeders, who are in the business of developing the prototypes and seeds for the world's best cannabis strains.

So it wasn't a surprise to find that DNA not only had Gavita's plasma lamps hanging in their seed factories, but also that they had coupled them with Gavita's Pro Line of digital bulbs and electronic ballasts. While the high-quality spectrum of the plasma lamps do incredible things, biologically speaking, for the plants, the high intensity and efficient PAR rating (i.e., quantity) of light required is supplied by the digital HPS lamps. Together, this setup provides the best of both worlds for any indoor garden.

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A dozer hauls mixture bases such as peat and sphagnum into the mixing room.

SOILLESS SOILS FACTORY

In general, new developments in soilless mediums may not sound quite as exciting as the lights just discussed—especially considering that soilless mixes are nothing new. But given the fact that, for decades, the Dutch style of indoor growing has been so heavily reliant upon artificial hydroponic grow mediums, this really is a breath of fresh air.

Although we sometimes refer to mixed mediums as “soilless” mixes, they often look and feel extremely similar to regular old earth soil. However, these mixes have no actual ground dirt in

them and are largely sphagnum-, moss- or peat-based. Technically speaking, however, these compounds are also sometimes found in earth soils, so the phrase “soilless soil” is not too far off base.

The biggest value of these mixes lies in the fact that they’re both natural and processed, which means they come to the grower largely sterilized and free of insects and disease. Bringing outside ground soil into an indoor facility of any type often leads to introducing various types of pests into the grow environment. In the case of soilless mixes, growers can get all the normal benefits of natural soil without any of the downside.

mediums for a host of horticultural and agricultural companies, including the well-known commercial giant Scotts and the highly touted hydroponics supplier Gold Label. Of course, the type of medium produced from client to client will often vary significantly depending on the application and environment. Substrate companies must understand their market and their growers, as different medium types are needed for different grow systems. Some companies may even choose to create multiple lines of a single substrate to reach more growers.

Primary considerations when developing a recipe for grow mediums include drainage, air penetration, absorption and retention of moisture, and buffering of nutrients. To support these desired characteristics, companies like Gold Label will seek out the finest additives to help the substrate perform as needed. Some of the best medium amendments available are coco coir, fine clays, refined wood chips, perlite, lime and vermiculate, along with trace elements and minerals that act as a head start on feeding programs and help minimize the transplant shock of seedlings and clones.

This particular production facility stores enormous quantities of a substrate base (such as peat), with as many as four or five different grades to choose from—some fine, others coarse. Take that and multiply it by three or four other bases (such as sphagnum or moss), and you’ll have stockpiles of over a dozen hardy bases to start with. Giant bulldozers scoop up loads from these stockpiles and move them indoors to a factory that begins an

assembly-line process of compiling the rest of the requested ingredients. Conveyor belts run the substrates through the factory, where the selected additives are mixed in

These soilless mixes are hydroponic by definition and a few automated feeding systems can be used in conjunction with them, most notably top-fed drip systems.

along the way. In the end, the mixed mediums are either loaded into heaping trucks or baled up and shipped out to distribution facilities earmarked for hydroponic stores and gardening centers.

Gold Label, for instance, begins with Swedish virgin white peat—some of the highest-quality peat available. This peat is coarse in structure: one gram can absorb nearly 10 grams of water. From here, the facility adds lime, Swedish clay, minerals and some organic fertilizer as well. This brand is created to keep air around the roots; it also has high water-retention capacity and is a good buffer for pH changes. If growers don’t drain their gardens to waste, the added minerals and nutrients can last an entire grow cycle.

Many mixes like Gold Label are available for indoor growers these days, and that includes hydro growers as well. Technically, these soil-

less mixes are hydroponic by definition, and a few very good automated feeding systems can be used in conjunction with them, most notably top-feed drip systems. Of course, there is nothing like hand-watering your gardens for the best results and the most rewarding experience. ✨

Thousands of bags of soilless medium mixes such as Gold Label await distribution to wholesalers.



SUBSTRATE PRODUCTION

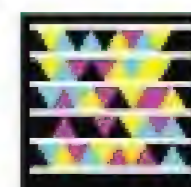
Just north of Amsterdam, among the myriad rows of tulip fields, windmills and greenhouse farms, lies a production facility so large that it’s able to churn out mixed-medium substrates to the tune of hundreds of thousands of cubic feet per day. What’s even more interesting is that these mixes are customizable and can vary from client to client. Currently, the facility is capable of producing over 1,100 different types of mixed medium. Most start with a heavy peat or sphagnum base, with other amendments slowly added to produce the perfect customized medium for the type of vegetation being grown.

This facility produces mixed

See lamps live in DNA's garden.



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Other additives such as dolomite or wood chips are added on the assembly line.



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Red Dragon



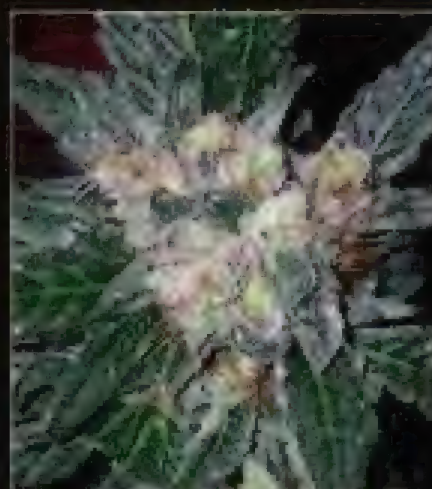
Morning Glory



Night Shade



Top Dawg



Violator Kush



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SENIOR CULTIVATION EDITOR DANNY DANKO HAS SEARCHED FAR AND WIDE, TRAVELING THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF CANNABIS VARIETIES OF DISTINCTION TO ADD TO OUR ILLUSTRIOUS LIST OF THE GREATEST MARIJUANA STRAINS ON THE GLOBE. BEHOLD THE CHOSEN FEW THAT EARNED THEIR WAY INTO HIGH TIMES HISTORY!

TOP 10 STRAINS



EXODUS CHEESE

(Green House Seeds)

Green House has dominated the seed and coffeeshop scene in Amsterdam for years, winning more Cannabis Cups than any other seed bank with powerhouse varieties like the Super Lemon Haze, Arjan's Ultra Haze and Super Silver Haze. Their newest strain, Exodus Cheese, represents the height of plant husbandry. The famously stinky UK Cheese clone-only strain has been tamed into a feminized version, with a creeper high that's great for treating insomnia or stimulating appetite.

In the indoor-growroom environment, Exodus Cheese will stretch a bit and exhibit extensive branching throughout the vegetative and early flowering stage. She's a perfect candidate for the "Screen of Green" (ScrOG) growing technique, which uses a horizontal chicken-wire screen at the canopy level to train the growing shoots. The relatively short flowering time and chunky, skunky finished product make Exodus Cheese excellent for growers, smokers and patients alike.

Lineage: Stabilized Original UK Cheese cut

Flowering time: 8 weeks

Contact: Green House Seeds, greenhouseseeds.nl

OF 2011

CRITICAL + (Critical Plus) **(Dinafem Seeds)**

The original Critical Mass, developed by Shantibaba from Mr. Nice Seed Bank, was a legendary cross of Big Bud and Skunk #1, two powerhouse Dutch strains from renowned pioneer breeder Nevil Schoenmaker's personal collection. Dinafem has taken this famed variety and feminized it into a stable, guaranteed-female plant that still retains the intense and celebrated fruity aroma, sweet flavor and mighty high of the original. Thin, light green leaves surround huge, trichome-covered tops so sticky that they actually cling to the skin.

Dinafem also gives full credit to Shantibaba for the strain's origins—in fact, they tried to offer him compensation for it, but he refused with a laugh, saying: "It's all right, mate!" (thereby providing a great lesson in humility and friendship). They also used *ruderalis* genetics to develop an autoflowering version of Critical + that stays short and stocky, producing bushy spears of bud at knee level. Keep in mind that the odor of this indoor/outdoor staple of Spain can be overpowering, so always use strong filtration during growth, harvest and drying.

Lineage: Big Bud x Skunk
(feminized)

Flowering time: 7 weeks

Contact: Dinafem Seeds,
dinafem-seeds.com

IRANIAN AUTOFLOWER

(Dr. Greenthumb)

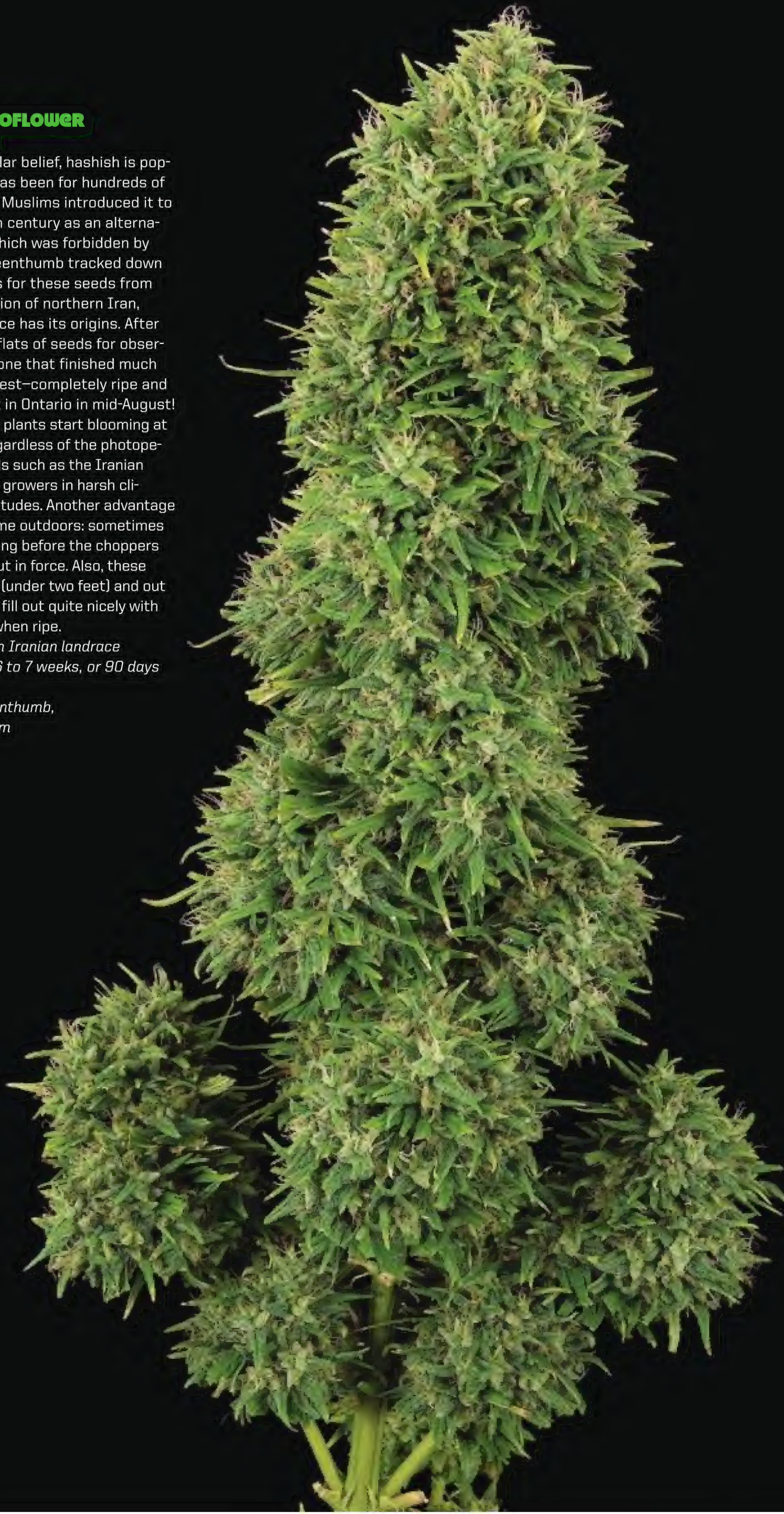
Contrary to popular belief, hashish is popular in Iran and has been for hundreds of years, ever since Muslims introduced it to Persia in the 12th century as an alternative to alcohol, which was forbidden by the Koran. Dr. Greenthumb tracked down the genetic basis for these seeds from the Mashhad region of northern Iran, where the landrace has its origins. After planting several flats of seeds for observation, he found one that finished much earlier than the rest—completely ripe and ready for harvest in Ontario in mid-August!

Autoflowering plants start blooming at a short height regardless of the photoperiod, making seeds such as the Iranian quite valuable for growers in harsh climates or high altitudes. Another advantage is the finishing time outdoors: sometimes as early as July, long before the choppers and rippers are out in force. Also, these plants stay short (under two feet) and out of plain sight, yet fill out quite nicely with big, hashy colas when ripe.

Lineage: Northern Iranian landrace

Flowering time: 6 to 7 weeks, or 90 days from planting

Contact: Dr. Greenthumb,
drgreenthumb.com



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LARRY OG KUSH

[The Cali Connection]

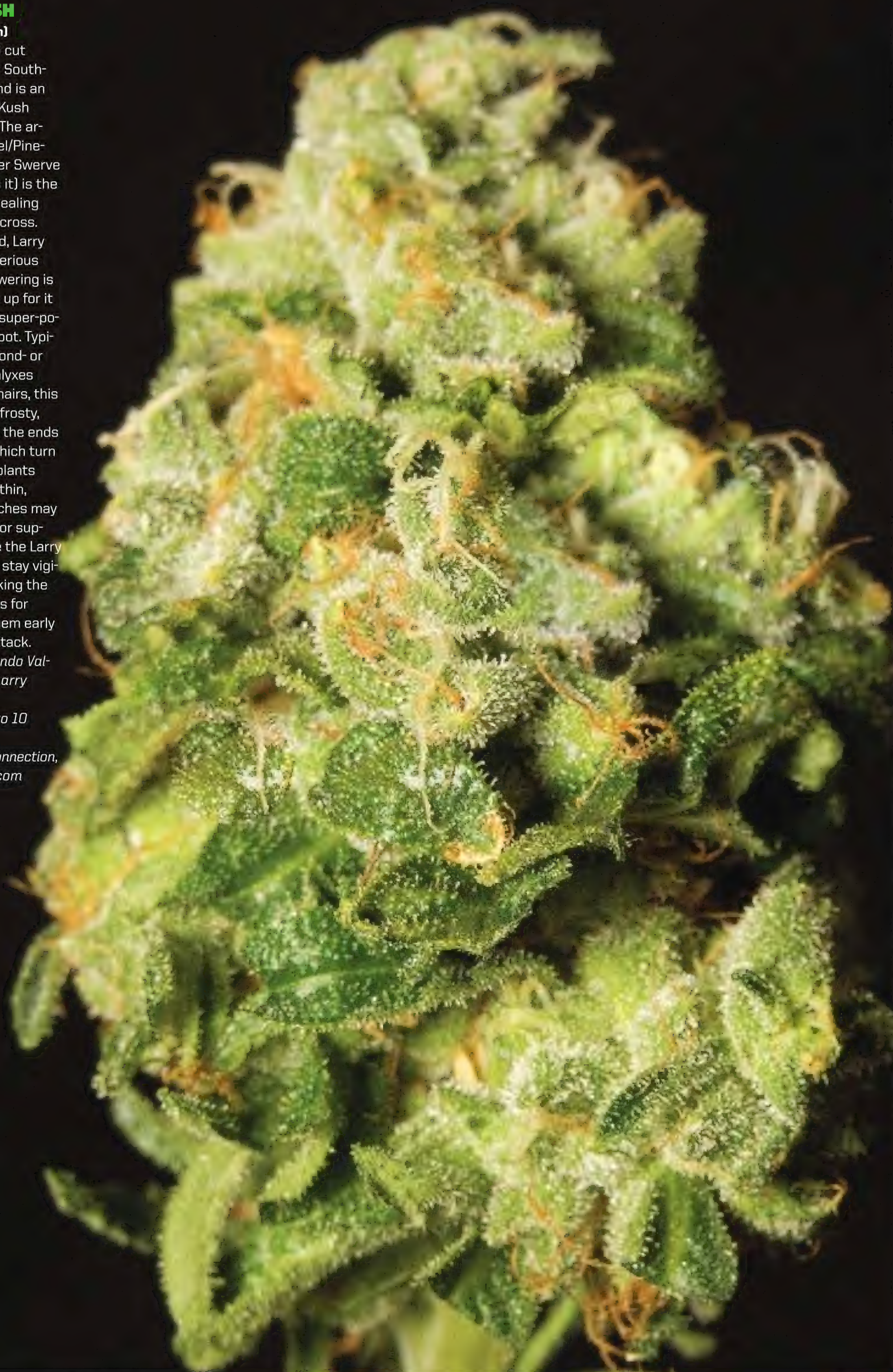
The famed Larry OG cut made the rounds in Southern Cali for years and is an all-time favorite of Kush lovers everywhere. The archetypal “lemon-fuel/Pine-Sol funk” (as breeder Swerve perfectly describes it) is the tip-off that you’re dealing with a real-deal OG cross.

Grown from seed, Larry does some pretty serious stretching after flowering is induced, but makes up for it with good yields of super-potent and odiferous pot. Typically producing almond- or teardrop-shaped calyxes with bright orange hairs, this strain grows super-frosty, with crystals out to the ends of the fan leaves (which turn dark purple as the plants near maturity). The thin, stretched-out branches may need to be staked for support, and mites love the Larry OG Kush as well—so stay vigilant and keep checking the undersides of leaves for damage to catch them early if they happen to attack.

Lineage: San Fernando Valley OG Kush (F3) x Larry Kush clone

Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks

Contact: The Cali Connection, thecaliconnection.com



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Sour Kush



Sleestack x Skunk



R.K.S.

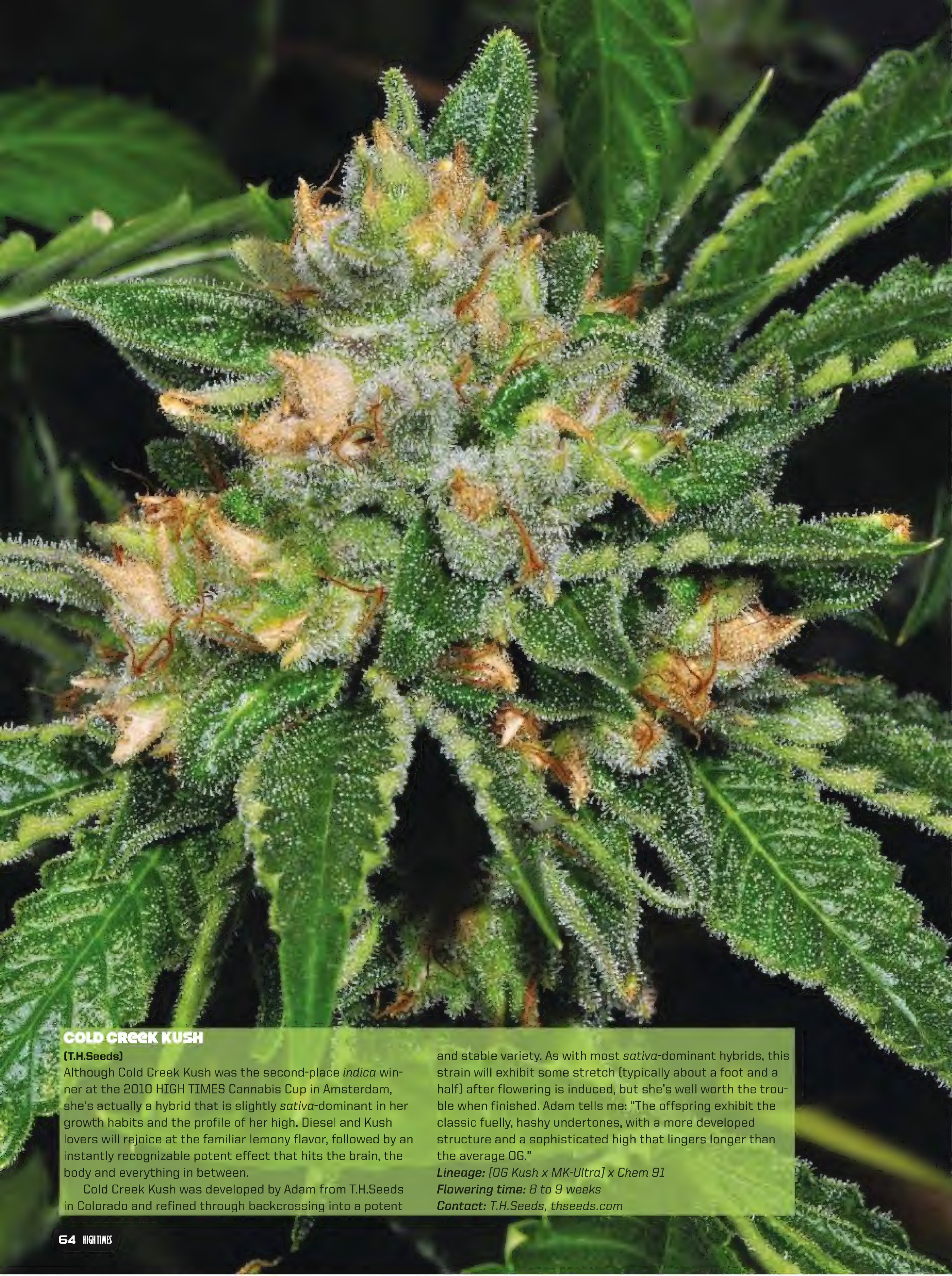


The OG #18 x Skunk



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COLD CREEK KUSH

(T.H.Seeds)

Although Cold Creek Kush was the second-place *indica* winner at the 2010 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, she's actually a hybrid that is slightly *sativa*-dominant in her growth habits and the profile of her high. Diesel and Kush lovers will rejoice at the familiar lemony flavor, followed by an instantly recognizable potent effect that hits the brain, the body and everything in between.

Cold Creek Kush was developed by Adam from T.H.Seeds in Colorado and refined through backcrossing into a potent

and stable variety. As with most *sativa*-dominant hybrids, this strain will exhibit some stretch (typically about a foot and a half) after flowering is induced, but she's well worth the trouble when finished. Adam tells me: "The offspring exhibit the classic fuelly, hashy undertones, with a more developed structure and a sophisticated high that lingers longer than the average OG."

Lineage: [OG Kush x MK-Ultra] x Chem 91

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: T.H.Seeds, thseeds.com

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KOSHER KUSH



KOSHER KUSH

(DNA Genetics)

After acquiring an extra-special cut (allegedly blessed by a rabbi) from a crew of Jewish kids in LA, the DNA boys set out to refine and stabilize their find. The resulting strain, Kosher Kush, provides a potent and powerful punch. With so many watered-down Kushes on the market, it's nice to taste a new one with all the flavor and kick of the original. The citrusy fuel odor stinks right through the jar, requiring proper sealing techniques in order to not blow up your spot.

Growers (and trimmers) will love the impressive calyx-to-leaf ratio, but I should note that this plant is a heavy feeder and will stretch some throughout growth. Aaron tells me: "She grows tall, so pinching will help tame her as well as beef up the yields." Aaron and Don also remind me that they're not religious at all, so the name isn't intended to promote any particular creed over the rest. Try some Kosher Kush for a taste of California's finest "bitter herb."

Lineage: OG Kush x Super Secret Sativa

Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks

Contact: DNA Genetics, dnagenetics.com

KRYSTALICA

(Mandala Seeds)

Jasmin and Mike of Mandala Seeds specialize in working with interesting and overlooked cannabis varieties from the Indian subcontinent, and their latest creation, Krystalica, exemplifies the mystic region's finest attributes. She's 75% sativa, containing landrace genetics from Kerala (in South India) as well as Nepal. When smoked, the bubblegum sweetness is what you'll notice first, followed by a spicy and musky finish and a cerebral high that reveals why the hashish from those regions is considered sacred.

Growing Krystalica results in huge, pyramid-shaped colas with an incredible amount of resin production (trichomes exist all the way out on the fan leaves). Jasmin tells me there's some phenotype variation, and they've documented several on their website, allowing growers to select the perfect mother plants for their own specific climate or growing conditions. Jasmin beams with pride as she describes the strain: "She rivals and even exceeds our Satori in potency, yield and vigor!"

Lineage: South Indian and Nepali landraces

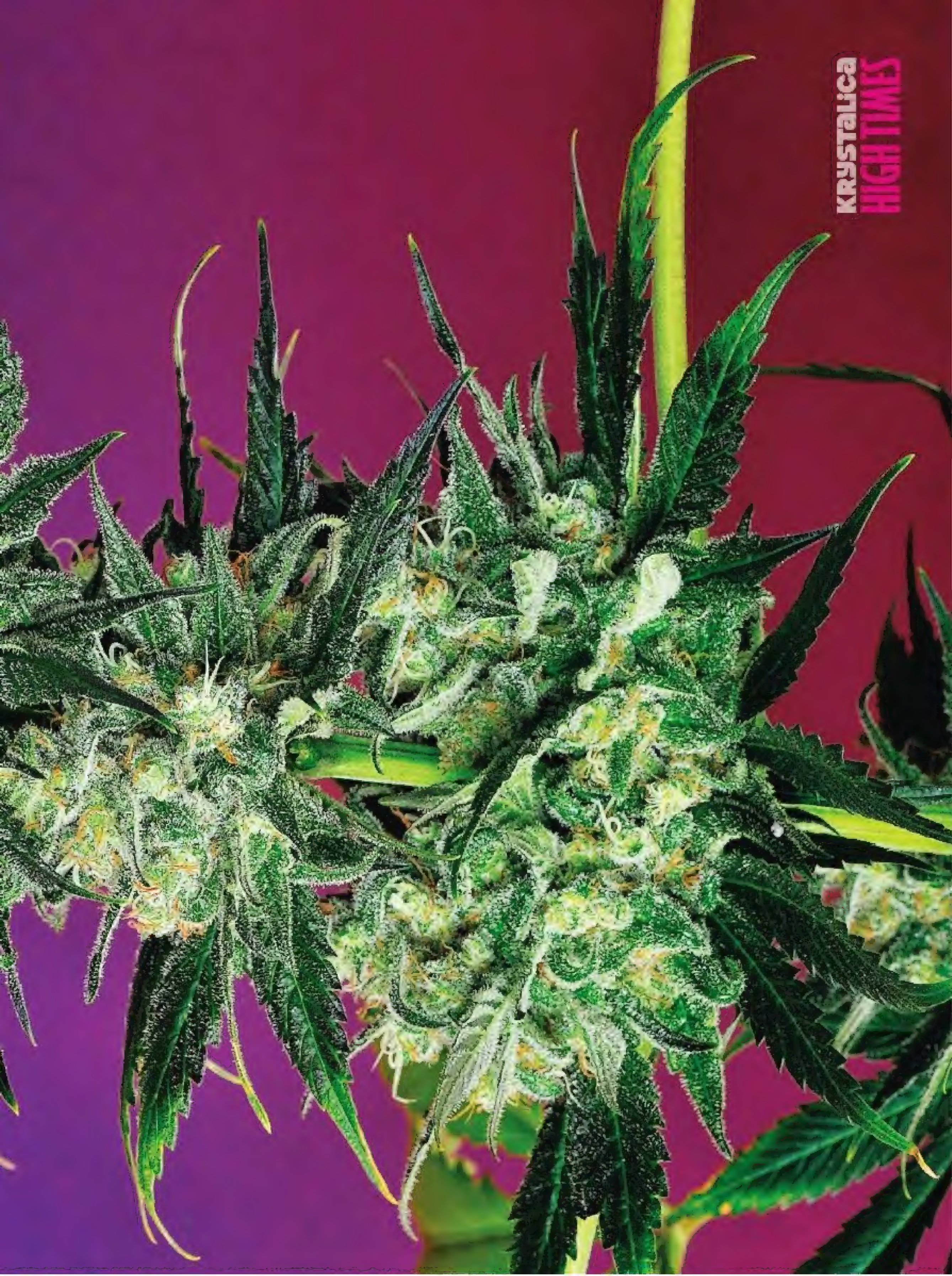
Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks

Contact: Mandala Seeds, mandalaseeds.com



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CHEESE QUAKE

[TGA Genetics]

Subcool strikes again with a delightful mix of sour and sweet in his newest offering, Cheese Quake. He first got the idea for it while mixing the two strains in a joint, then set about crossing them together and carefully choosing and stabilizing the results.

Slightly *indica*-dominant, the Cheese Quake is a delight to grow, filling out early with a thick bud structure and short internodes.

Subcool says there are two phenotypes from these seeds: one more Urkel-dominant, with a strong, musty grape/lavender flavor, and the other more Cheese-dominant, with a pungent, sourer smell. The high is cerebral and “head-tingling, followed by an energetic body stone” (to quote Subcool’s description, and I couldn’t agree more). Cheese Quake also shows a high CBD level in lab tests, making it perfect for patients who need pain relief or suppression of tremors, but without the drowsiness that sometimes comes from smoking *indicas*.

Lineage: Exodus Cheese x Querkle [Urkel x Space Queen]

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: TGA Genetics, tgagenetics.com



THE BIG

[BC Bud Depot]

Perennial Top 10 winners BC Bud Depot return with a new *indica*-dominant strain bound to make a splash on the elite seed market. Prior to being stabilized, this G-13/Butterscotch Hawaiian cross was named Free Leonard in honor of Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier. The genetic-isolation process was actually a collaboration between BC Bud Depot and Canndoc Medical Laboratories, which is licensed to develop genetics for the medical-marijuana patients of Israel. Lab testing ensures that only the strongest offspring make it into the seed-production process.

The Big’s super-high THC levels make her perfect for patients in search of relief from intense pain, and she’s also great for the recreational user looking to relax. Growers will delight in the bright green foliage and marvel at the tremendous amount of trichomes produced by this strain. The fresh buds have an overpoweringly sweet blueberry-bubblegum flavor and odor, but skunky and hashy undertones arise after grinding up a nug. The narcotic high lasts for hours and can be almost hallucinatory at times, so this one is **not** recommended for the occasional toker!

Lineage: G-13 x Butterscotch Hawaiian (stabilized FL-Cola phenotype)

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: BC Bud Depot, bcbudonline.com





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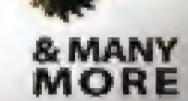
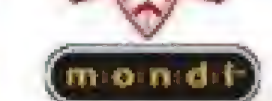
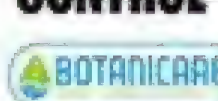
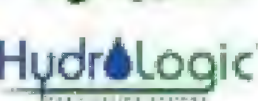
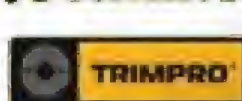
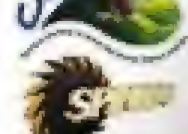
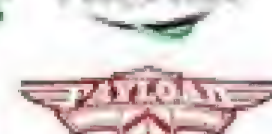
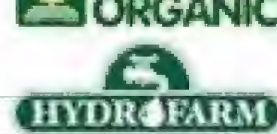
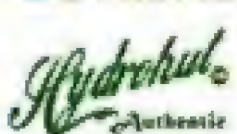
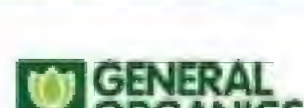
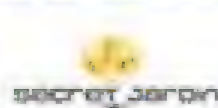


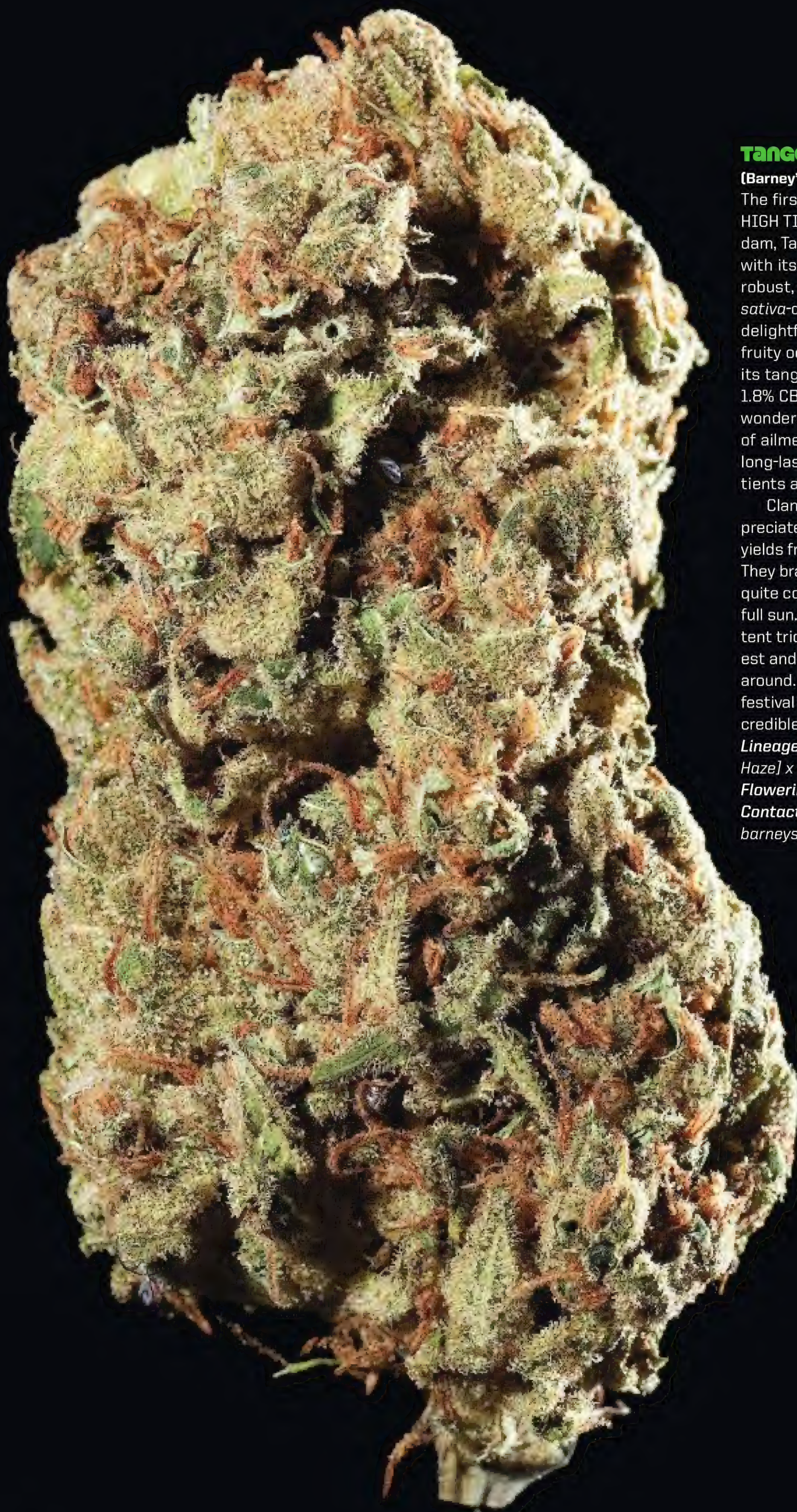
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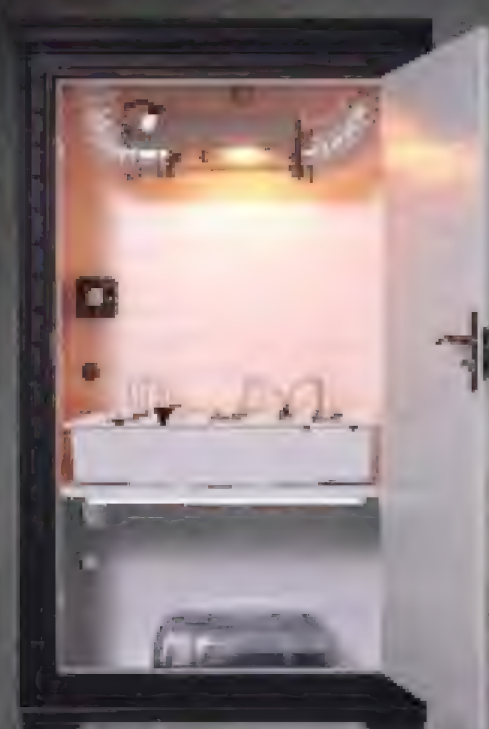
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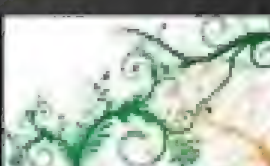
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A CHRONICLE OF DIRTY MONEY. STORY BY STEVEN HAGER. ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE PRO

"It is well enough that the people of this nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning."
—Henry Ford

Just how big is the underground drug market? The little-known secret of banking is that some of the world's most powerful banks have always depended on black-market money—including drug money—to survive. To understand the depth of corruption in today's banking industry, it is useful to look at some of the key points in banking history.

Sometime around 300 BCE, the Roman Republic establishes the first global currency in the form of metal coins. Gold and silver coins are minted in Rome, while bronze and copper coins are minted around the empire. After Rome gradually drains all of the silver out of its "silver" coins, inflation sets in and its western empire collapses, opening the door for a new global banking authority.

Founded in 1119, the Knights Templar are a religious order granted a papal exemption from usury laws. This highly secretive order begins operations by generating "letters of credit" for pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. After falling deeply in debt to the Templars, the King of France outlaws the order and attempts to seize its assets on Friday, October 13, 1307. The Templars' French grandmasters are tortured and executed, but much of their gold simply vanishes.

In 1400, the Medici Bank in Florence, Italy, invents double-entry bookkeeping and becomes the world's biggest bank for generations, famous for persecuting Jews and undertaking murder plots against other banking families in Italy, a country where banking continues to reign supreme for several more centuries. Meanwhile, the Jewish del Bancos become a dominant banking family in Venice until they're forced to flee to Warburg, Germany, in the 16th century. The family adopts the name "Warburg" and becomes a powerful financial dynasty. Several centuries later, one of its scions—Paul Warburg—will become known as the "father of the Federal Reserve."

In the 1500s, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V of Spain institutionalizes "fractional reserve" banking, which means banks are allowed to loan out more money than they have on deposit, thereby creating new money as debt.

In 1600, several prominent British families band together to create a cartel known as the British East India Company. Like the Templars, this company will eventually maintain its own armies, forts and conquered lands. The East India Company trades in cotton, silk and tea, but its biggest profit-maker is opium, although to maximize profits, the opium must be smuggled into China, where black-market prices prevail.

The Bank of Amsterdam is created in 1609 and becomes the only bank whose charter demands a 100 percent (as opposed to fractional) reserve—a system that lasts for 170 years.

The Bank of England is created in 1694 and immediately becomes Britain's central bank and the model on which all future central banks will be founded. It's a private bank with an exclusive government contract. In 1717, Sir Isaac Newton establishes a mint ratio that devalues silver, putting England on the gold standard.

In the early 1700s, banker and goldsmith Mayer Rothschild has the brilliant idea of relocating his sons to five banking centers in Europe, thereby carefully spreading their wealth around to protect it from the sort of seizure that destroyed the Templars.

Meanwhile, during a trip to England, Benjamin Franklin is asked why the American colonies seemingly have no unemployment while mother England is full of homeless beggars. He replies: "In the Colonies, we issue our own paper money. It is called 'Colonial Scrip.' We control its purchasing power and we have no interest to pay to no one." This comes as a surprise to the British bankers, who quickly demand that colonial scrip be outlawed, cutting the colonies' money supply in half.

In 1785, not long after the Revolutionary War, the US adopts a silver standard. The biggest controversy of the new nation concerns whether to establish a privately held central bank. Alexander Hamilton lobbies for it, while Thomas Jefferson argues strongly against it. The first Bank of the United States is created in 1792. Public outcry is so great, however, that it dissolves in 1811.

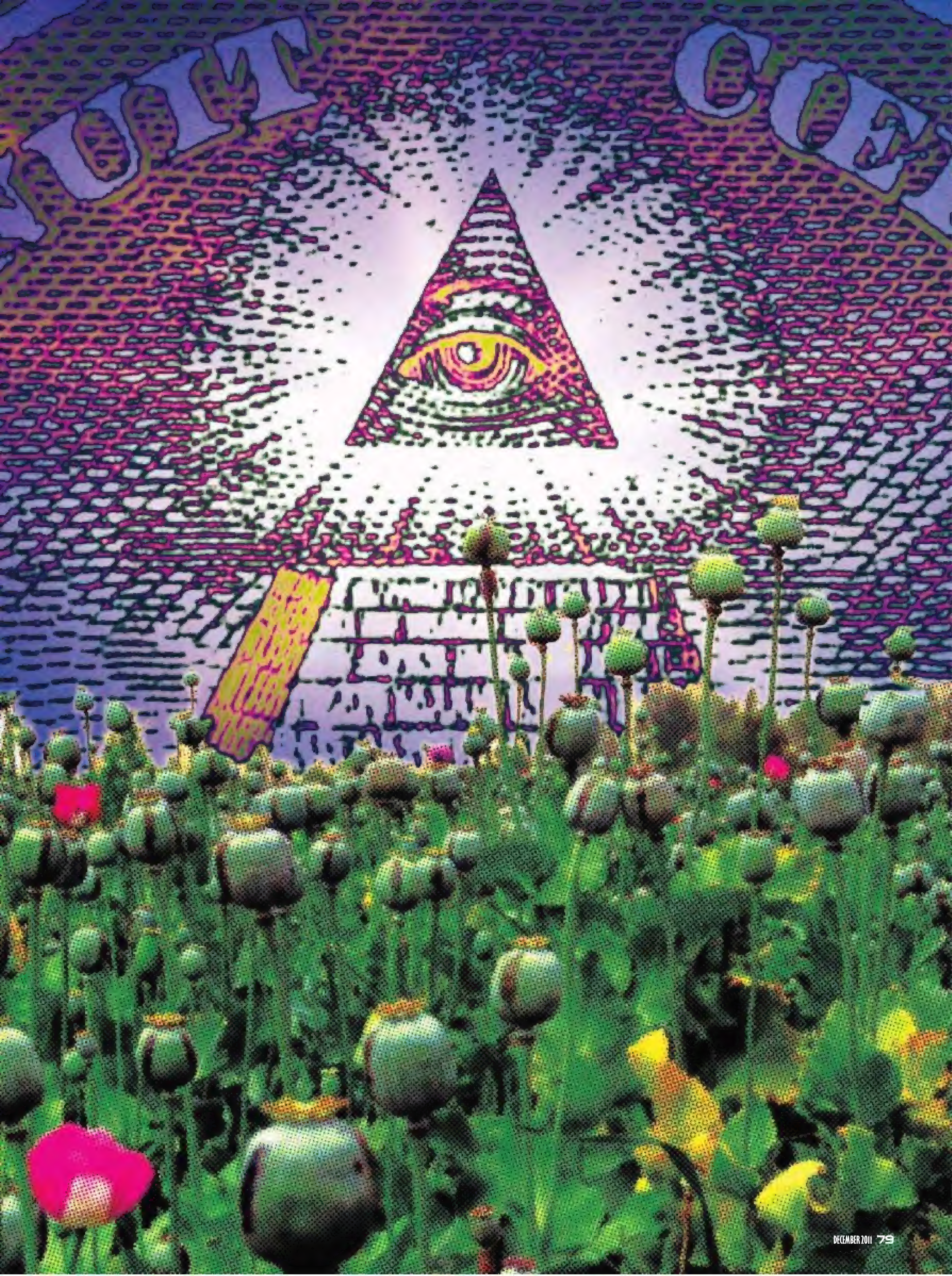
In Europe, the Rothschilds—generally considered the most successful banking family in history—gain significant power after the Battle of Waterloo by spreading rumors of a Napoleonic victory, which creates an exploitable financial panic.

The second Bank of the United States is created in 1816 by President James Madison and lasts until 1833, when it is killed by President Andrew Jackson. There is no central bank in the US for the next 73 years. Jackson will always consider killing the central bank his greatest achievement.

In 1832, the Order of Skull and Bones is created at Yale University. It's the first American branch of an elite German secret society. Many of the original members come from families involved with the East India Company's opium cartel.

In 1857, a banking panic spreads throughout North America as the economy sours and several banks fail. Former Tories who had supported England during the Revolutionary War quietly fund the abolitionist movement. Unfortunately, President Abraham Lincoln goes along with the emerging war plans. However, Lincoln refuses to borrow money since the banks demand over 20 percent interest. Lincoln prints his own debt-free paper money, dubbed "greenbacks."

After the Civil War, J.P. Morgan emerges as the dominant financial power in North America due to his war profiteering (including trafficking in defective weapons). But Morgan isn't alone: The Rockefellers, Carnegies, Mellons and



many other names from the *Social Register* all make fortunes during and after the Civil War, and almost all are devoted Anglophiles with deep connections to British banks.

England continues on the gold standard, while the United States remains on a bimetallic standard (gold and silver). But in 1873, in what becomes known as the "Crime of 73," Congress demonetizes silver. In 1896, William Jennings Bryan runs for president, campaigning to restore the bimetallic standard. His opponent, William McKinley, is the approved candidate of Wall Street. Bryan becomes known as "the lion" for his fiery speeches, so McKinley brands him the "cowardly lion" on account of his opposition to war. *The Wizard of Oz* is an allegory for this famous struggle and provides the inspiration for the same character.

In 1871, the privately held Reichsbank becomes the central bank of the newly created German empire, replacing 31 separate Prussian central banks, all of which had been issuing money.

In 1910, Senator Nelson Aldrich organizes a secret meeting on Jekyll Island. The meeting includes Paul Warburg, Frank Vanderlip, Henry P. Davison, Charles Norton and Benjamin Strong. Warburg is the primary architect of a plan for a private banking cartel in the US. Later that year, an economic depression occurs following enforcement of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, while in 1911, the Supreme Court breaks up Standard Oil, at the time the largest corporation in the world. The Federal Reserve Act is passed on December 23, 1913, while most of Congress is on holiday. It is hyped as protection against future depressions.

Hamburg banker Max Warburg (brother of Paul) becomes chief advisor to the German Kaiser Wilhelm II at the start of World War I. Meanwhile, in 1915, the US "robber barons" pool their funds to create the America International Corporation (AIC). In March 1917, Czar Nicolas II of Russia abdicates following the February Revolution. Germany and Wall Street back the exiled Bolsheviks to return to Russia and subvert the democracy that is spontaneously emerging. In April 1917, the US enters World War I. Six months later, the fully funded October counter-revolution sweeps Lenin into power.

In 1925, I.G. Farben is formed through the merger of six major corporations in Germany



JFK PLANS TO END THE OIL INDUSTRY'S DEPLETION ALLOWANCE AND "BREAK THE CIA INTO A THOUSAND PIECES." KENNEDY WILL BE DEAD A FEW MONTHS LATER.

and instantly becomes the dominant corporation in Europe, referred to simply as "the cartel." It's the fourth-largest corporation in the world, behind only General Motors, US Steel and the downsized Standard Oil.

In 1928, the Federal Reserve begins raising interest rates to slow market speculation. One year later, Wall Street crashes, creating the Great Depression.

In 1930, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is formed in Basel, Switzerland, ostensibly to facilitate German war reparations. Actually, however, BIS is designed to function as a central bank to the privately held central banks. Participating countries are required to stockpile gold in Basel, and this gold is used to settle debts between nations. By international treaty, BIS is immune from government interference or taxation and can never be audited. From its inception, the leadership of BIS is dominated by the powerful Nazis who have just assumed control of Germany.

In 1934, two-time Congressional Medal of Honor winner Major General Smedley Butler tries to blow the whistle on a Wall Street plot to remove President Franklin Roosevelt and establish a military dictatorship in the US. Butler pretends to go along with this plot in order to identify the major sponsors and then presents his evidence to an embarrassed Congress, which immediately goes into private session and circles the wagons to protect the guilty. The following year, Butler publishes his book *War Is a Racket*.

I.G. Farben becomes a major sponsor and chief corporate cheerleader for Adolf Hitler's conquests. At the start of World War II, the company holds more shares of Standard Oil than

any other entity except the Rockefeller family. Strangely, many Wall Street companies continue to do business with Germany throughout the war, most notably Standard Oil. The Luftwaffe, in fact, is dependent on fuel from Standard Oil.

Immediately after the war, American forces are headquartered at I.G. Farben's main office while hundreds of Nazi war criminals, scientists and intelligence operatives are aided in disappearing into North and South America. Those that remain in Europe are recruited into a secret stay-behind network dubbed "Gladio" to foment both left- and right-wing terror operations during the Cold

War. According to former SS Commander Paul Hausser, the foreign divisions of the Nazi SS become the foundation for NATO.

During the war, the Germans and Japanese systematically steal gold from occupied countries now worth trillions of dollars, almost all of which disappears. Much of the German gold is washed through BIS, while the Japanese gold is slowly recovered from booby-trapped burial sites in the Philippines. Military intelligence operative Paul Helliwell is involved in this recovery. Completely cloaked via national-security policy, this "Black Eagle Fund" is devised and orchestrated by Henry Stimson, a member of Yale's Skull and Bones. In 1951, Helliwell sets up the Sea Supply Corporation to provide weapons to Taiwan and Thailand. The company immediately becomes involved with opium.

In 1952, the Reece Committee on Tax-Exempt Foundations is created by Congress to investigate support by major corporate foundations for communism. Banker Norman Dodd is appointed chief investigator and eventually concludes that the Rockefeller, Ford and Carnegie foundations are deliberately weakening individual freedoms in order to allow central government to assume greater power.

In June 1963, President John F. Kennedy instructs his Treasury Secretary to issue \$4 billion in debt-free silver certificates. JFK plans to end the oil industry's depletion allowance and "break the CIA into a thousand pieces." David Rockefeller writes an op-ed in the *New York Times* blasting JFK's policies. Kennedy will be dead a few months later.

In 1964, Helliwell creates the Castle Bank in Freeport, the Bahamas, although the bank won't be operational for another three years. It soon

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becomes the bank of choice for the CIA and organized crime, especially Meyer Lansky. An IRS investigation into the bank is quickly shut down.

In 1973, the Nugan Hand bank is founded in Sydney, Australia, by an Australian mobster and a former Green Beret involved in the opium trade. It will become the CIA and Mafia's favorite bank for many years following the demise of Castle Bank. Nugan Hand creates branches around the world run by retired high-ranking military officers. When a scandal breaks out regarding the bank's involvement in Australian politics, Frank Nugan is murdered and Michael Hand vanishes.

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was registered in Luxembourg by a Pakistani financier in 1972. After the fall of Nugan Hand, however, it quickly becomes the seventh-largest private bank in the world, with 400 branches in 78 countries. BCCI is heavily involved with the CIA and organized crime in money laundering, drug running, illegal arms sales and terrorism.

In 1980, Charlotte Iserbyt, senior policy advisor in the Office of Educational Research, has a chance encounter with Norman Dodd and becomes so upset with the corruption of the education system that she publishes *The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America*. Iserbyt leaks her father's Skull and Bones membership directory to economist Antony Sutton, who has been exposing Wall Street's connections to Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

In 1982, CIA director William Casey gets a legal exemption sparing any members of the CIA from reporting on drug smuggling by CIA officers, agents or assets.

In 1986, famed drug runner Barry Seal—who has threatened to blow the whistle on CIA drug smuggling—is murdered in Baton Rouge, LA, after Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North reveals Seal's work as an informant in the Iran-contra hearings, which are controlled by Bonesman John Kerry.

In 1988, Pan Am 103 blows up over Scotland. The plane carries four intelligence agents returning to Washington, DC, to blow the whistle on controlled deliveries of heroin out of the Bekaa Valley. Pan Am learns this after hiring former Mossad agent Juval Aviv to investigate the incident.



INTERNATIONAL BANKING IS A DIRTY BUSINESS. APPARENTLY, IT'S NOT A PROBLEM AS LONG AS THE DRUG LORDS AND LOCAL MAFIAS USE CIA-CONNECTED BANKS.

In 1990, Pete Brewton of the *Houston Post* uncovers evidence linking the CIA and Mafia to the looting of dozens of savings-and-loans over the previous decade. The bailout of the failed savings-and-loan industry eventually costs US taxpayers more than the Vietnam War.

In 1991, after the British media reports that BCCI is providing arms to Iran and funding terrorists, the bank is forced to close and liquidate. BCCI pays \$10 million in fines and forfeits \$550 million in American assets. It goes down as the largest forfeiture in history.

In 1996, investigative reporter Gary Webb publishes evidence linking the spread of crack in Los Angeles to the CIA's contra-supply network. He is crucified in the media and loses his journalism career. Although no one will ever disprove a single one of his reported facts, Webb later commits suicide after defaulting on his mortgage.

In 1999, Alexander Hamilton's prestigious Bank of New York is discovered laundering billions for Semion Mogilevich, the Meyer Lansky of Russia. The bank eventually pays a paltry \$38 million to settle two criminal probes against it. At the time, the case is dubbed "the biggest financial scandal of all time," but not a single member of the bank's executive staff is indicted. Court records reveal interactions between bank executives and organized-crime figures, as well as massive worldwide fraud, drug and weapon trafficking, and murder-for-hire. Billions transferred through the International Monetary Fund and intended for Russia remain unaccounted for.

On September 10, 2001, Donald Rumsfeld goes on national television to admit that the Pentagon cannot account for \$2.3 trillion—a

story that evaporates the following day as essential financial records at the Pentagon are destroyed on 9/11.

Between 2003 and 2004, \$9 billion goes missing from Federal Reserve transfers to Iraq. Apparently, the missing money belongs to Iraq.

In 2005, whistler-blower Martin Woods exposes massive drug-money laundering inside Wachovia Bank. The complex court case drags on for years.

In 2006, Felipe Calderon becomes president of Mexico and vows to capture or kill the country's drug lords and their associates, setting off a brutal wave of violence that takes 40,000 lives over the next five years, though it will have little impact on drug distribution.

In July 2007, the Mexican

drug cartels abruptly stop feeding cash into the global banking system, possibly fearing confiscation. Exactly one month later, many banks line up at the New York Federal Reserve's discount window for injections of cash—a sign of impending crisis that inadvertently initiates a silent run which will blow up the housing bubble and threaten to bring down the global financial system. Congress commits around \$4 trillion for bailouts. The Federal Reserve demands total secrecy, but Antonio Maria Costa, head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, admits that over \$300 billion in drug money is used to rescue the system. Costa declines to identify the banks involved and says the drug money is now "part of the official system."

In 2009, Wachovia finally settles. The bank confesses to laundering \$378 billion in drug profits over several years. But it pays only \$160 million in fines, which represents less than 2 percent of its annual profits.

Unfortunately, this is probably just the tip of the iceberg. International banking is a dirty business and has been for a long time. Apparently, it's not a problem as long as the drug lords and local mafias use CIA-connected banks. Over the last few generations, however, the corruption involved in these operations seems to have grown, judging by the size of the crimes being committed.

One wonders what our real economy might look like without all this thievery to drag it down. Rest assured, banks will continue to pay nominal fines if caught laundering drug money, while most banks will never get caught. Why would they, when no whistle-blower has ever emerged victorious and the taxpayers are always available to pick up the tab? *

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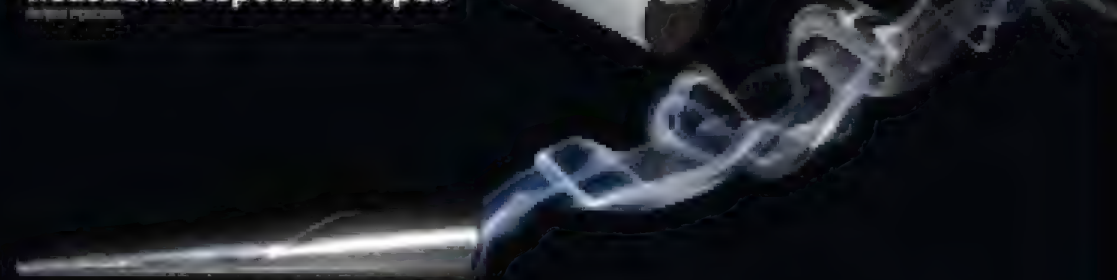
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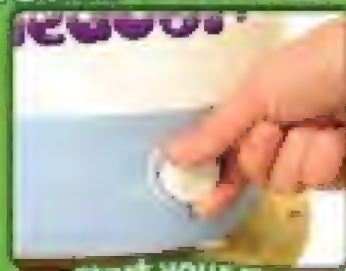


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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH DR. HARRY LEVINE. INTERVIEW & PHOTOS BY DAN SKYE

With over eight million people and counting—New York is the biggest city in the US (over twice the size of Los Angeles) and has long enjoyed a reputation for its liberal politics. But if you're a pot smoker in the Big Apple, beware—especially if you're black or Latino. In 2010, New York City spent \$75 million or more arresting and jailing over 50,000 people for possessing small amounts of marijuana. Most of them were in their late teens or early twenties, and nearly 90 percent were people of color.

Dr. Harry Levine, professor of sociology at Queens College, City University of New York, has been documenting this ongoing horror show for the past six years. He grew up in the NYC borough of Queens but received his doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. He taught there for a while, but returned to New York City in 1979 “like a fish to water.”

He describes himself as “a historian trapped in the body of a sociologist,” but his research—which describes an urban police force grinding out record numbers of marijuana arrests and local politicians who have utterly failed their constituents—reads like a tragedy, pure and simple.

How did you get started in this particular area of research?

When I was a graduate student at Berkeley, I got a job at a research institute that did surveys about drinking practices. It became the first social-science center studying drinking practices. I wound up becoming their historian, studying almost anything with the word “alcohol” in the title.

Did this become part of your Berkeley studies?

My dissertation focused on the anti-alcohol or temperance movement and the rise of alcohol prohibition. I spent about 10 years studying various facets of the long story of alcohol in America. It always seemed to me that, if I had lived during Prohibition, I would have taken it on.

So how did you get involved in Drug War research?

In 1985, Ronald Reagan heated up the War on Drugs with crack as its focus. The newspapers reported that my immediate neighborhood [West 108th to 110th Street in New York City] was a crack hotspot—except where was it? I parked my car in a garage and every day walked home several blocks through the supposed crack-dealing 'hood, but I couldn't find a crack vial. The New York Times wrote that this long-time barrio was a neighborhood where people left their doors unlocked until crack came along. That's nonsense. The Times was publishing fiction. With Craig Reinerman, I began writing about the exaggerated claims, and eventually the book *Crack in America*.

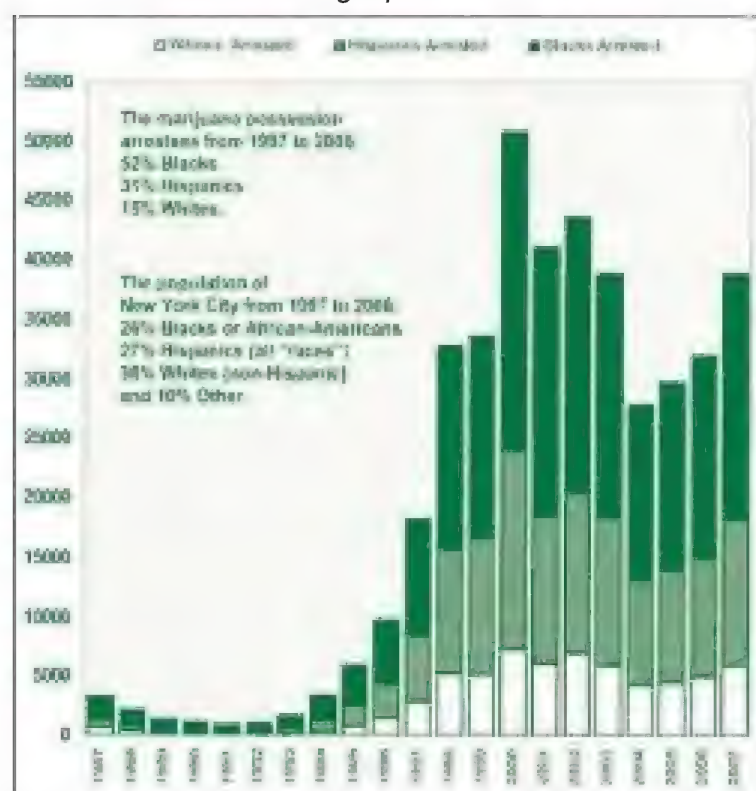
I also helped edit *Marijuana Myths, Marijuana Facts* with my friends, the late Dr. John Morgan and Lynn Zimmer. For a couple more years, I studied national and global drug prohibition. In the end, I decided I had picked the wrong drug. I taught a course on drug policy and drug issues. And the students would tell me: “Don't teach us about crack, teach us about marijuana!”

Okay, you're off crack now. Tell us about your pot research.

Lynn Zimmer kept telling me that New York City was making astronomical numbers of marijuana arrests. Marijuana researcher Jon Gettmann, who I now work with, had gotten FBI arrest statistics. He looked at US counties larger than 200,000 and ranked them according to the rate of marijuana arrests. Five of the top 10 counties in the US, in terms of the per capita rate of marijuana arrests, were Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island—all five of New York City's boroughs.

First I tried to get arrest information from the police department—I was brutally naive about that. But I did discover I could get the arrest data from New York State, broken down by race, age and gender. At first, I made simple black-and-white graphs that I'd show people I knew. I presented them at some conferences, and I'd go to Christmas parties and social events and bring them along. I became a bore.

Levine shows the graph.



Oh my God!

That's what everybody would say.

Now before we go any further, doesn't New York have a “legal possession” law?

A decriminalized possession law. In 1977, the New York State Legislature passed and the governor signed the Marijuana Reform Act. Before then, marijuana was included under the Rockefeller Drug Laws, and white, middle-class college students had been getting five-year sentences for a few ounces of pot. Constituents of the governor and of the legislature were freaking out.

The 1977 law created a new, separate section of the New York State penal code just for marijuana. To this day, simple marijuana possession—of 25 grams or less, about seven-eighths of an ounce—is a “violation,” the lowest charge in New York law. If there is a bit of pot in your pocket, purse, backpack, home, in the trunk of your car, glove compartment, briefcase or whatever, it's a violation—to some extent similar to a traffic offense. It's punishable by a \$100 fine and is not a crime. Any amount over 25 grams, or any amount that is burning or in public view, is a misdemeanor—a crime, an arrestable and fingerprintable offense.

The law was explicitly designed to reduce the arrests of young people for possessing and using marijuana and erase the stigma of criminal records. The spirit of that law—and, to some extent, the letter of that law—was respected from 1977 up into the early 1990s.

What changed?

It started with [former New York Mayor Rudy] Giuliani. His administration had three police commissioners. The first was Bill Bratton, until recently police chief in Los Angeles. Bratton is regarded as the chief author of “quality of life” policing—what I would call “misdemeanor-heavy



Dr. Harry Levine's research shows that New York City pot arrests are out of control and racially motivated.

Levine works at his home on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

'POT ARRESTS ARE SAFE. IF YOU STOP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MARIJUANA, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET SHOT. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET STABBED.'

policing." He went after low-level offenses—but not marijuana. Under Bratton, marijuana-possession arrests went up a bit, but not dramatically.

However, Bratton got himself on the cover of Time magazine. Giuliani was viciously jealous, fired Bratton and brought in Howard Safir—colorless, odorless, tasteless—and he let Giuliani have the spotlight. But Safir was a narc. He had spent years at what we now call the DEA. When he joined in 1965, it was still the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. Safir had spent a long time as a high-level administrator in the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, and then with the DEA. He knew Giuliani from the early Reagan years, when Giuliani was associate attorney general. They were of like mind, and Safir had no problem radically expanding the number of marijuana-possession arrests.

Under Safir and Giuliani, cops were encouraged to arrest and jail people simply for possessing small amounts of marijuana. For the police department, making marijuana arrests accomplished several things at once. Serious crime was dropping nationally—from 1990 to 2000, crime dropped almost everywhere in the United States and very heavily in New York, possibly because it was artificially high during the crack years. If reported crime is going down, what does the NYPD do with all those officers? Their answer was proactive policing: go out and chase misdemeanors in the same way that police are ordered to go on parking-ticket blitzes.

How was that achieved?

Stop-and-frisks. Police stop black and Latino men in their neighborhoods, ask for ID, pat them down, go in their pockets. The cops, as they put it, were looking for contraband—something that you're legally not allowed to have. But mostly they find marijuana and make custodial arrests: handcuffs, back to the police station, fingerprints, pho-

tographs and a night in New York's deplorable jails. They want to get the fingerprints and photographs for their databases, and they'd love to get DNA. They put people on suspect lists. Police departments live and die on data, and there is no restraint on their ambition to do those things.

If someone's pot isn't in public view, how can that person get arrested?

According to New York State law, as long as the weed stays in your pocket or possessions, it's a violation and not a crime. However, once the marijuana is "open to public view," it is technically, legally, formally a misdemeanor. Two-thirds to three-quarters of those arrested were not smoking or openly displaying their marijuana in any form.

Cops stop people and do one of several things. Very often they just put their hands in people's pockets or order them to empty their pockets. This is not legal, but it happens in New York and every other major city every day. But police can also legally trick people. In the course of a pat-down, they'll say something like, "You don't mind if I search you? You don't have anything to hide, do you?" Young people who respond that they have nothing to hide are technically giving legal permission to a search.

Cops also "ask" people to empty their pockets, saying: "If you have anything you're not supposed to have, take it and show it to us now." Or they'll say, "We're going to have to search you." Legally, they're not allowed to search, but they are legally allowed to say that they're going to search you. They're allowed to lie. If they trick someone into allowing a search or taking out their marijuana, the pot is now "open to public view" and technically a crime in New York.

Is there any financial benefit for New York City by increasing pot arrests?

There are only more costs. Policing is expensive, jails are expensive, and courts are expensive. However, the police department is relatively wealthy, with a \$4 billion yearly budget—which doesn't even include pension money. The police department can afford to do this, and thus far there is no political power strong enough to make them stop. But the arrests do not make money, and they now cost about \$2,000 apiece, or about \$100 million a year.

If it's of no benefit, how does the machine keep going?

The top commanders in the NYPD order them, but many ordinary patrol cops and narcotics cops don't mind making these arrests. Why? The pot arrests are safe. Police work can be dangerous. If you stop teenagers and young people with marijuana, you're not going to get shot; you're not going to get stabbed.

As one cop put it to me, when you arrest somebody, you're married to the person, physically connected. The people arrested are in the squad car, the cops take fingerprints—and they literally hold the person's hand to do that. The arresting officers may accompany the people to court, may sit next to them at various points. Marijuana smokers, by and large, are not smelly, they're not dirty, they don't have tuberculosis, they're not scuzzy. If you have to spend three or four hours in their company, they're relatively high-quality people to spend time with.

Police officers in New York City can make money through overtime—they call it "collars for dollars." The best way to get overtime is to make an arrest at the end of a shift. So the cops find a teenager with a bit of weed in his pocket half an hour before their shift is over. The cops bring the teenager back to the station, and now they've got three or four hours of relatively pleasant, easy overtime. Not only do the arresting officers get overtime, but their immediate supervisors get overtime, because they have to supervise officers who are still hanging around.

Police departments have always lived by numbers, but since computerization in the 1990s, tracking officer productivity has been an obsession of police commanders up and down the line. Better assignments and promotions depend on productivity. So ordinary cops like the pot arrests because the policy helps them succeed in the system. Marijuana-possession arrests actually do improve the quality of life—for police.

Also, if something big comes up in the city, like a fire, a bombing, the president's in town, there's a water-main break—some kind of crisis—NYPD commanders can pull cops off low-level arrests of all kinds, marijuana among them, and shift them over. Nobody cares, nobody knows, and no ongoing investigation is interrupted. There's no downside. For example, in 2001 when Giuliani was mayor, the city was on track to break the pot-arrest record of 2000—until the morning of September 11th. Suddenly, the police had more important things to do. The month-by-month data for 2011 shows almost no arrests were made in the rest of September, October, November and December.

Finally, police commanders like marijuana

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the high times interview

arrests because they're absolutely the best way to get the fingerprints and photographs of those who were never before in the system. Nothing the police can do will get more young people and new people—especially young people of color—into the criminal databases than marijuana arrests.

Current Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he smoked marijuana and liked it. He must support this policy.

He's despicable. He doesn't care about the people who suffer from his policies. It's important to understand that nearly 90 percent of the people being arrested are young blacks and Latinos. By and large, the arrests are not motivated by personal racism on the part of individual police officers. Some of the cops are themselves blacks or Latinos. They're expected to make these arrests, they know what they're doing, and they carry on. It isn't overt racism, but there's this agreement that it's okay to do this to these people; it's legitimate.

Sounds pretty racist to me.

It is, especially at the level of NYPD commanders. But the patrol cops are pawns. There are cops who don't want to do this, and many find this pretty offensive—stupid as well. Veteran police know it's a waste of time and money. Nobody believes it reduces

crime, but they send new cops out there with arrest quotas. They're assigned to do stop-and-frisks, write tickets and make arrests. If they're assigned to Central Harlem, Washington Heights, the South Bronx or Bed-Stuy, then they're going to be stopping blacks and Latinos.

NYPD commanders aren't so anxious for cops to be doing stop-and-frisks in white, middle-class and wealthier neighborhoods like the Upper West Side and Upper East Side. Marijuana arrests in predominately white neighborhoods are low—and the wealthier and whiter the area, the lower the arrest rates. The arrest rates in neighborhoods like East Harlem are 100 times higher than in Bloomberg's Upper East Side.

One reason that our research about the NYPD's marijuana arrests has gotten attention and legitimacy is because of the enormous gap between what most New Yorkers think the police do, and what the police department is actually doing. The police are creating permanent criminal records for the young people arrested—the exact opposite of what the 1977 New York State law intended.

The scale of what's happening in New York City is huge. The NYPD makes 350,000 arrests a year, 250,000 of which are misdemeanors. So the 50,000 marijuana-possession arrests constitute 25 percent of all misdemeanor arrests in New York City, and one out of every seven arrests for anything. In New York City, more people are arrested and charged with marijuana possession than for any other crime whatsoever.

'NEW YORK CITY IS DOING WHAT NEARLY EVERY MAJOR COUNTY AND CITY IN AMERICA IS DOING.'

Beyond the humiliation of the arrest and a night in jail, what are the consequences for the people arrested?

The collateral consequences are by far the worst part of all this. Everyone arrested has a permanent criminal record, now easily found on the Internet through commercial database firms for \$20 or less. Employers, landlords, schools, banks, credit agencies, licensing boards and others routinely check them. One arrest for marijuana possession can show up on the databases as a "drug offense" without explanation. Because it's young, low-income people who are mostly arrested for pot possession—especially young people of color—the marijuana arrests create enormous economic and career barriers. The legal scholar Michelle Alexander calls this "the new Jim Crow," because it accomplishes the same kind of discrimination that legal segregation did. That is a perfect name for this awful policy.

Are you optimistic about this policy changing?

Yes. A threshold has been crossed. Call it generational consciousness; quantitative change has turned into qualitative change. I think that the undoing of George Bush and the lies that initiated and sustained the war in Iraq—weapons of mass destruction and so forth—have made it easier to see that other wars, including the Drug War, are founded on lies. The one drug that most people know about—the one drug that has penetrated more deeply into ordinary American life than any other by far—is marijuana.

New York City is doing what nearly every major county and city in America is doing: making large numbers of marijuana arrests and disproportionately arresting blacks and Latinos. The New York State Legislature will probably do something to radically reduce the number of these arrests in New York City. It will literally take the State Legislature to tell the NYPD that it can't do this anymore.

The civil-rights movement has woken up about the Drug War. At its recent convention, the NAACP took a strong stand against the War on Drugs, and I think it will soon attack the racist marijuana arrests throughout the United States. That will bring in progressive—meaning liberal—forces of all kinds. More liberals show up to vote whenever there is a marijuana-legalization issue on the ballot, especially where there are substantial numbers of blacks and Latinos. Soon, state legislators, congressmen and others will be joining this growing concerted attack on the War on Drugs.

Marijuana arrests now constitute nearly half of all drug arrests in the US. So it will take work and organization, but the marijuana arrests can be reduced and, I believe, ultimately eliminated. The times, they are a-changing. ✱

For more info, visit marijuana-arrests.org.

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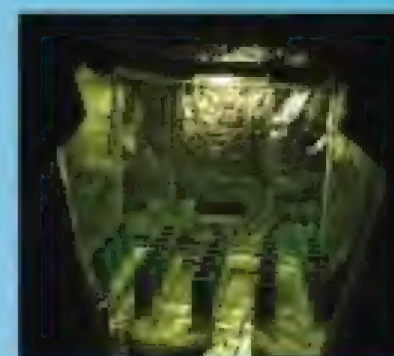
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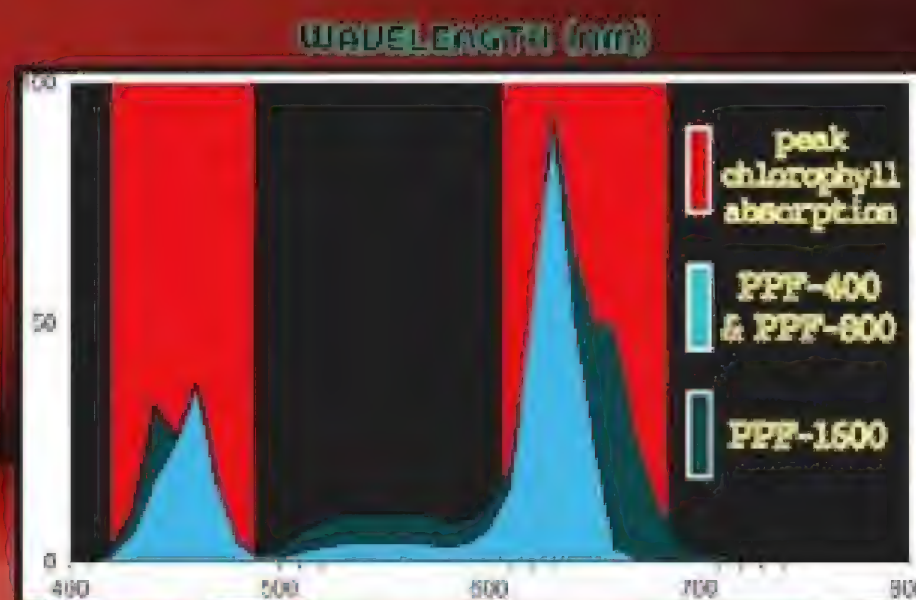
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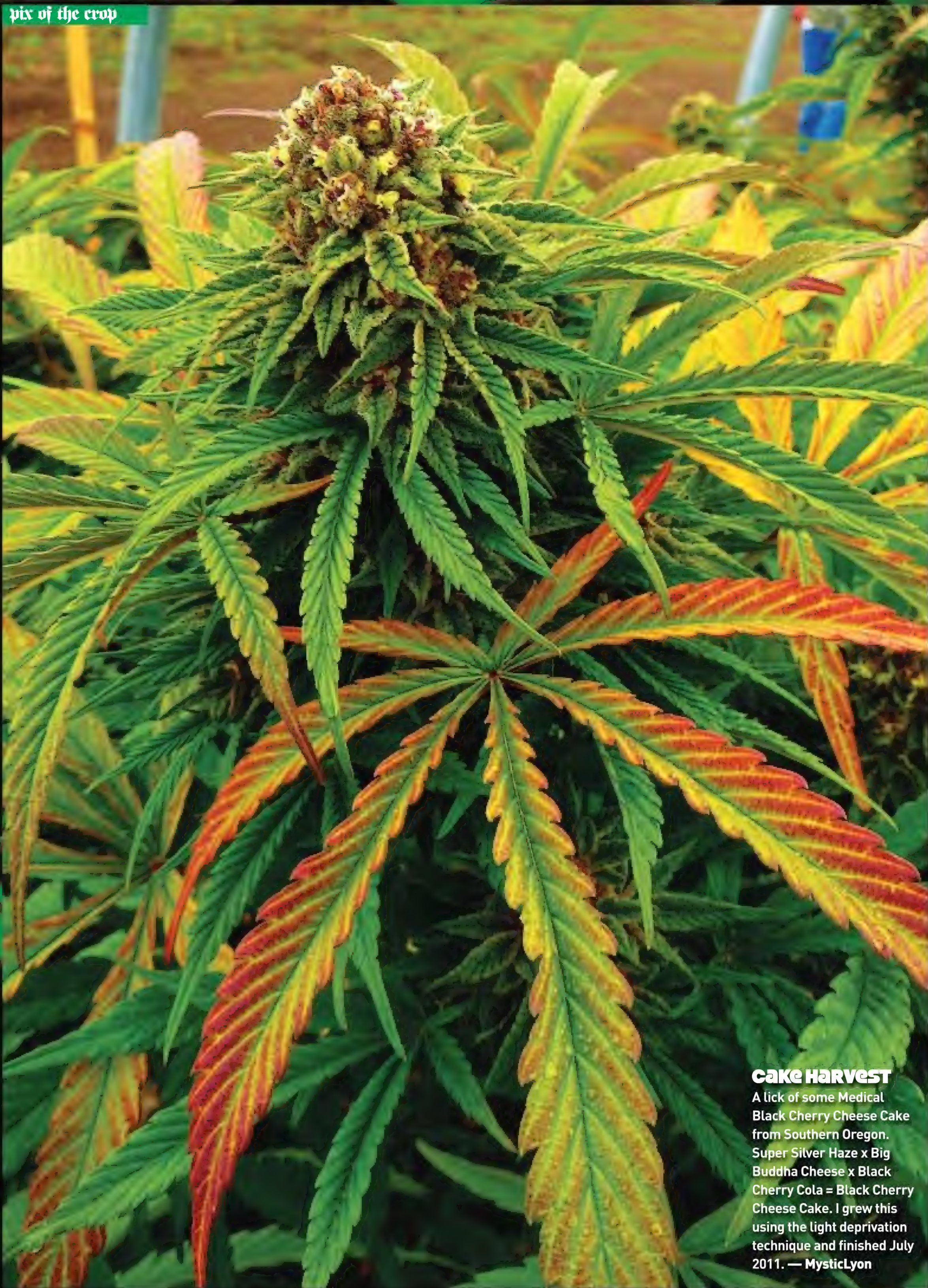


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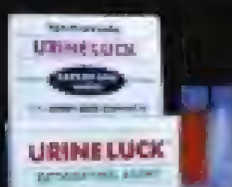
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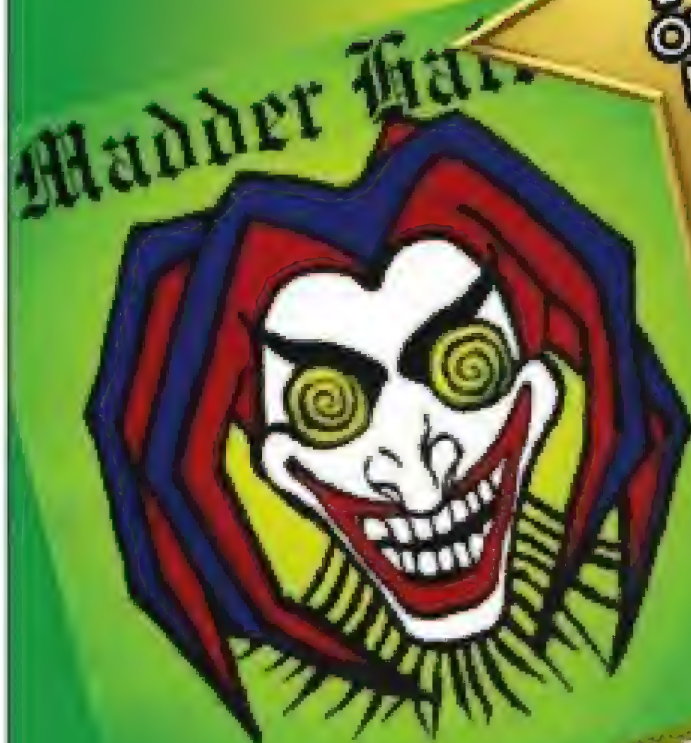
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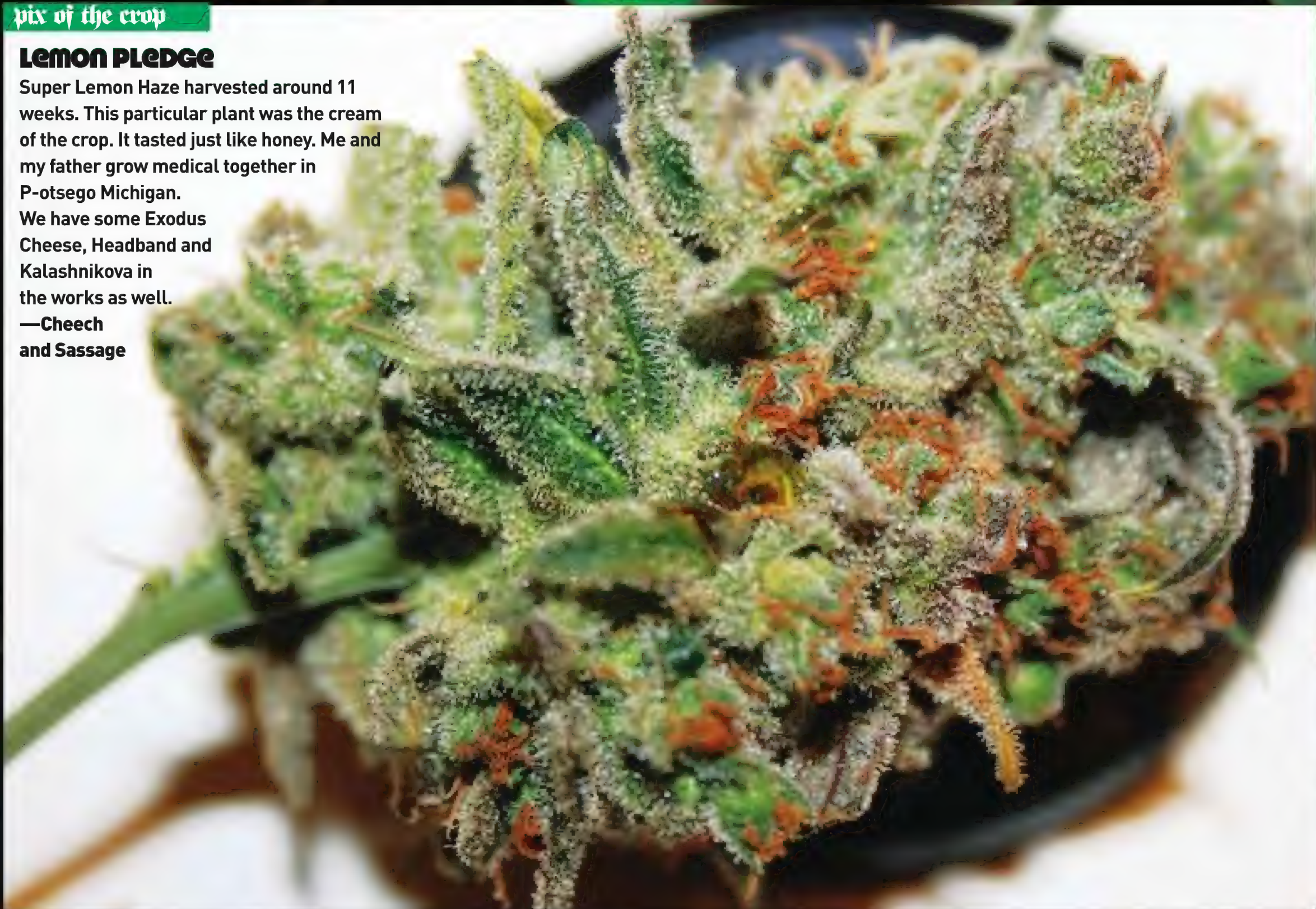
pix of the crop

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—Cheech and Sassage



JARHEAD

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—Kasper K.





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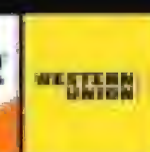
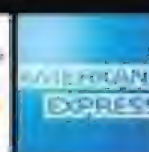


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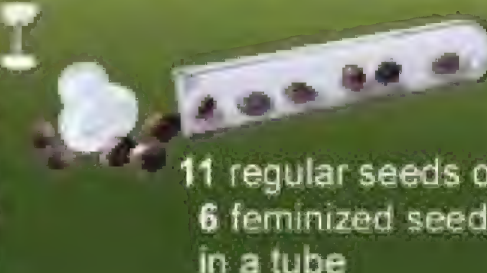
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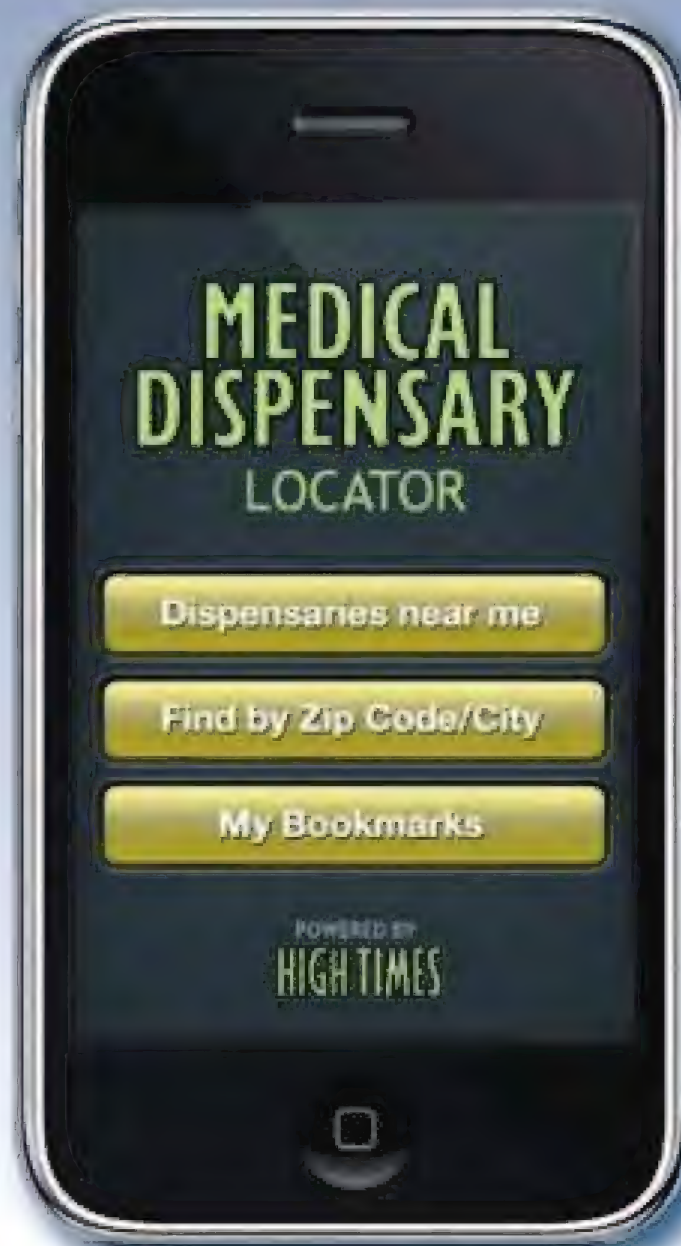
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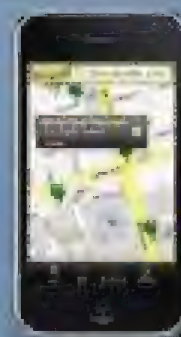
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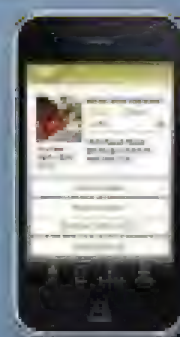
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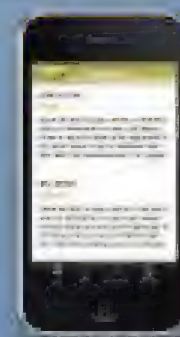
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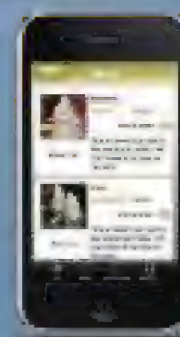
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LEARNING EXPERIENCE

THE SSDP HAS TAKEN ME PLACES I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GO—AND TAUGHT ME HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

I first got involved with SSDP at the University of Arkansas in the fall of 2008, when the chapter was working on a SAFER initiative that proposed changing campus policy to equalize the penalties for marijuana and alcohol violations. The (non-binding) initiative ended up passing with 67 percent of the student vote—a clear reflection of the hard work we put into the campaign.

The next year, I got even more involved with SSDP, taking on the role of events coordinator for my chapter. I also found that my activism was a great way to meet people and make new friends, on and off campus, while working together toward our common goals—such as inviting NORML director Allen St. Pierre to speak, a presentation that packed the university ballroom with more than 600 students eager to hear his message about the urgent need to legalize marijuana.

We also worked directly with university officials to effect positive change—at least we thought we did. For instance, in August of 2010, administration officials met with me and another chapter leader to let us know that they would soon be enacting our SAFER initiative. We were thrilled, so we sent out a press release to share the good news—one that received a lot of positive media attention, particularly since we were among the first schools in the nation to achieve such a change.

Shortly thereafter, however, the university put out its own press release claiming that no such changes to campus policy were being planned. Our

entire chapter was absolutely shocked that they would so blatantly try to ruin our credibility. Fortunately, we were able to produce audio recordings of our various meetings with school administrators. Later, the dean of students met with us and explained that the chancellor had decided to repeal the changes because he didn't want to "encourage drug use on campus."

Outraged, we hosted a protest and helped ensure that the chancellor's office was flooded with calls and emails from students and parents expressing their disappointment with his decision. So far, we're still working to change his mind.

In the meantime, this past March, I joined the officers of my chapter in attending the 2011 SSDP Conference in Washington, DC. We learned a great deal about drug policy and political activism, including getting the chance to lobby our congressional

representatives. That's also when I decided that I would like to pursue a career in drug-policy reform after graduation; I even landed an internship for the summer at the SSDP's national office (just a few blocks away from the White House).

All in all, SSDP has been an amazing experience so far. This year, our campus chapter will be allying itself with Arkansans for Compassionate Care (www.arcompassion.org), a group of activists working hard every day to put medical marijuana on the statewide ballot in 2012. I can't wait to get involved in this extremely worthy effort—and to see where else SSDP will take me. —**Stephen Duke, president, University of Arkansas SSDP**

OUR ENTIRE CHAPTER WAS ABSOLUTELY SHOCKED THAT THEY WOULD SO BLATANTLY TRY TO RUIN OUR CREDIBILITY.

freedom fighter



Erik Williams

WORKING THE SYSTEM

AN ACTIVIST PUTS HIS POLITICAL KNOW-HOW TO GOOD USE IN CONNECTICUT.

Earlier this year, the Nutmeg State implemented new legislation reducing the possession of up to half an ounce of marijuana from a criminal misdemeanor to a non-criminal infraction. The success of this measure was due, in no small part, to the efforts of a hard-working political strategist named Erik Williams.

The founder of CampaignsWon.com, a political consulting firm based in Connecticut that has worked on hundreds of campaigns since its inception, Williams

has spent most of his career as a political consultant. Though his roots in marijuana activism stretch back to his college days, he saw an opportunity to utilize his unique skill set in helping reform Connecticut's cannabis laws. "I decided it was time for me to put up or shut up," he says.

In 2011, Erik became executive director of the recently re-formed Connecticut NORML chapter and focused his efforts on two different legislative measures: the decriminalization of personal-use possession and the legalization of medical use. Though the medical bill has fallen victim to the state's political process, the decriminalization measure was passed by the legislature and signed into law this past June. Now, instead of being subject to up to a year of jail time as well as fines and a criminal record, cannabis users arrested with half an ounce or less face a non-criminal infraction punishable by only a \$150 fine.

Williams deserves major credit for his tireless outreach and lobbying efforts on behalf of this legislation. "When asked why I do this," Erik says, "it is because the facts, science and the public are behind it. It makes sense, but not enough people are willing to get involved or show their true feelings. If I don't stand up, how can I expect anyone else to?" —**Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator**

ASK DR MITCH

Noam

Dr. Mitch,
Does marijuana lead to lower college grades?

Hi Noam,

A couple of studies have shown lower grades in college for marijuana users, while others have found no difference. The latest work shows that students who reported no marijuana use had an average GPA of 2.94 (a high B-), while students who reported using once a week or more had a distinctly lower average GPA of 2.64 (a high C+). But no one has followed people longitudinally to see if marijuana actually *leads to* lower grades; these folks might have had lower grades before they ever encountered marijuana. (And, in fact, no one has even checked the grades to see if they were reported accurately.) My own advice: Don't study high, and use the plant as a reward for achievements.

If THC kills fungus, why does fungus still grow on plants?

GT

Hi GT,

Cannabis extracts can kill fungi and bacteria, but THC isn't really the key: Other components (such as bornyl delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinolate) battle some of the fungi. In fact, extracts from industrial hemp with no THC at all can still give bacteria a run for their money. But any warrior can get overwhelmed, so if enough fungus is around, even the strongest plant may show some.

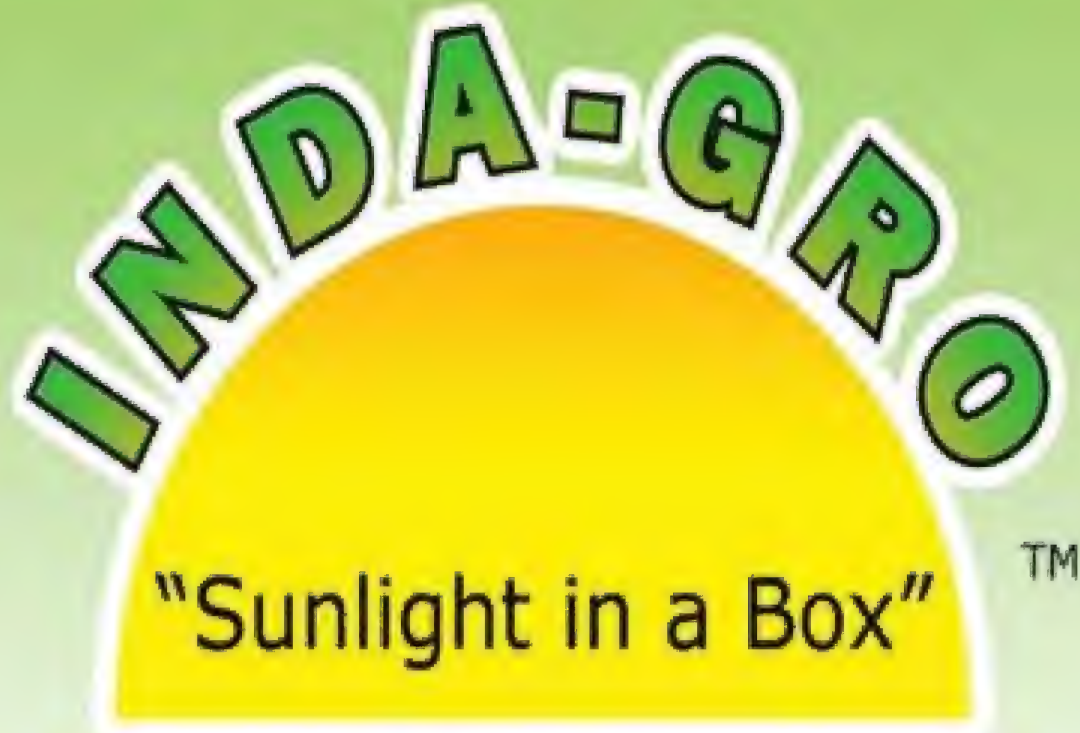
Can you test positive from eating hemp-seed snacks?

V. Mindprobe

Hi V.,

It's not likely, but it's possible. Hemp seeds don't contain an appreciable amount of THC and won't get anyone high. But one study found that a couple of folks screened positive for THC on a single test given a few hours after they ate three hemp-flour cookies (though, by next morning, they no longer tested positive). But don't let this keep you from enjoying hemp seeds: They're a great source of protein and essential fatty acids.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.



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BLUNTED BUNDT CAKE

END THANKSGIVING DINNER ON A HIGH NOTE. BY MARY OUGHT SIX

Never before has the phrase “Behind every great man, there’s an even greater woman” rung more true than in the case of HIGH TIMES Freedom Fighter Eddy Lepp and his wife, Linda Senti. While Eddy made headlines with his crop of over 36,000 marijuana plants alongside California Highway 20, none of those beautiful buds would ever have come to fruition without the inspiration, stability and support of Linda.

I had the privilege of living with the Lepps on their massive Northern California commune from 2004 to '05 while compiling material for a HIGH TIMES story and working as Jack Herer’s personal assistant. In that time, I grew to love Linda deeply (as did everyone around her), and I witnessed daily the ways in which she served as the glue that bound this massive grow op and communal-living situation into a solid, functional thing—no small task with big personalities like Eddy around, and all the other diligent marijuana pioneers who were helping to produce some of the kindest bud, bubble hash and kief for



thousands of California medical-marijuana users.

Over the 20 years she dedicated to legalizing marijuana, Linda won many awards for her activism, including the Jack Herer Emperor Award. She was a minister in the Rastafari church; used hemp seed,

kief, hash and marijuana in her cooking; wore hemp clothing; and tirelessly advocated for the plant—all while fighting a lifelong battle with cancer, which eventually took her life on November 25, 2007, the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was always a special time of year for the Lepps. Linda would fix up a spread of food that any foodie/pothead would give their left pinkie to sit down and enjoy. There was her “tainted turkey,” which used over three ounces of high-grade marijuana, her brown kief gravy and, of course, her famous bundt cake. Some called it downright dangerous; it was definitely downright delicious.

Rest in peace, dear Linda Senti (July 22, 1952, to November 25, 2007). ✱

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LINDA SENTI'S BUNDT CAKE

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp nutmeg, freshly grated
1/4 oz marijuana, ground
(to make the cannabutter listed below)
1 pinch kief (adjust as desired for strength)
1/2 cup regular butter, softened
1/2 cup cannabutter, softened
2-1/2 cups granulated sugar
5 large eggs
3/4 cup half-and-half
1 tbsp pure vanilla extract

For the icing and garnish:
2-1/2 cups confectioner's sugar
2 tbsp cannabutter, room temperature
2 tbsp half-and-half; more as needed
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
1/4 tsp nutmeg, freshly grated
1 pinch kief (adjust with caution)
1/4 tsp table salt
1/4 cup crystallized ginger, finely chopped

To make the cannabutter:

Melt one stick of unsalted butter over low heat in a double boiler. Add the weed, then heat for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally (and watching to make sure that the weed doesn't get toasty). Place in fridge.

To make the cake:

Preheat oven to 325°F. Prepare a 12-cup bundt

pan with Baker's Joy baking spray and set aside. Put the flour, baking powder and salt into a strainer and sift into a bowl; set aside. Beat the butters on medium speed until creamy. Add the sugar into the butters 1/2 cup at a time and continue beating on medium until the mixture becomes fluffy. Crack the eggs one at a time and add them into the butter-and-sugar mix, blending each egg in before adding the next one. Reduce speed to low and begin to alternately add the flour mixture and half-and-half into the creamed butters, starting and ending with the flour, until the ingredients are fully incorporated. Add the vanilla, nutmeg and kief until blended.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and spread out the top evenly. Bake at 325°F for about one hour or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Place the pan onto a cooling rack and cool the cake in the pan for 15 minutes. Invert the cake onto the rack and allow it to fully cool (at least 30 to 45 minutes).

To make the icing:

In a medium bowl, whisk the sugar, cannabutter, half-and-half, vanilla, nutmeg, kief and salt until smooth. Add more half-and-half a few drops at a time, as needed, until the icing is pourable but still quite thick. Pour the icing back and forth in thick ribbons over the cooled cake. Sprinkle the ginger on top for garnish. Let the icing set at room temperature (about 45 minutes) before serving. **Stones 5.**

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'The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.'

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933

FDR's famous words, spoken at his inauguration during the Great Depression era, comforted the American public. However, for today's cannabis consumers, fear is an omnipresent companion.

In fact, the most pervasive, confounding and resilient attitude among the general public regarding cannabis—one that makes it difficult for advocates to make headway in the fight for legalization, but relatively easy for prohibitionists to maintain the failed status quo—can be summed up in a single word: *fear*.

Polls and focus groups conducted by pro-pot proponents in California after last fall's narrowly defeated legalization initiative indicate that even in a state like California—where the issue of cannabis use has been politically and culturally vetted for 40 years—nearly 50 percent of the public fears cannabis, believing it to be more dangerous than alcohol.

Of course, we know better. But the cannabis-law reform community needs to recognize that legalization will likely continue to be forestalled until the general public is sufficiently educated and informed on the benefits of cannabis, including the fact that responsible pot use has no relation to alcohol abuse.

Anti-cannabis propaganda has been larded upon the public for over eight decades now. But, like the Berlin Wall, cracks are beginning to appear. The mainstream media has less ability to saturate the public with reefer-madness narratives, "stupid stoner" stories and goofy double-entendre headlines. These days, a highly diversified media landscape has emerged, fueled by the advent of the Internet in the 1990s.

The baby boomers now leading American

political institutions, big business, education and the entertainment industry have a decidedly different and more progressive view of cannabis use and consumers than their World War II-era parents. Additionally, it's pretty hard for most boomer parents to conjure up generational fear over an activity that they know is relatively benign.

The good news is that a new documentary film and TV show airing this fall will undoubtedly further demystify the subject of modern cannabis use. The documentary, *It's a NORML Life*, chronicles the efforts of cannabis consumers working hard to change prohibitionist laws, while *Weed Wars*, a new TV series on the Discovery Channel, follows Stephen DeAngelo, the CEO of Oakland's Harborside Health Center, as he runs the country's biggest medical-cannabis dispensary.

And if you really want to persuade nonbelievers, have them read *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?*, the best book ever written (in my view) comparing and contrasting cannabis and alcohol consumption. Authored by my NORML colleague Paul Armentano, this well-written, comprehensive pro-pot polemic persuasively argues that in a country where alcohol is legal, taxed and regulated, there is absolutely no reason why cannabis—a much safer drug to imbibe—isn't a choice for adults.

Finally, coming this fall keep an eye out for NORML's upcoming "ReThink the Leaf" campaign, which will actively encourage the media, policymakers and the public to reconsider the costs and ineffectiveness of cannabis prohibition, even as it seeks to eradicate our country's prohibition-induced fear. —Allen St. Pierre, executive director of NORML

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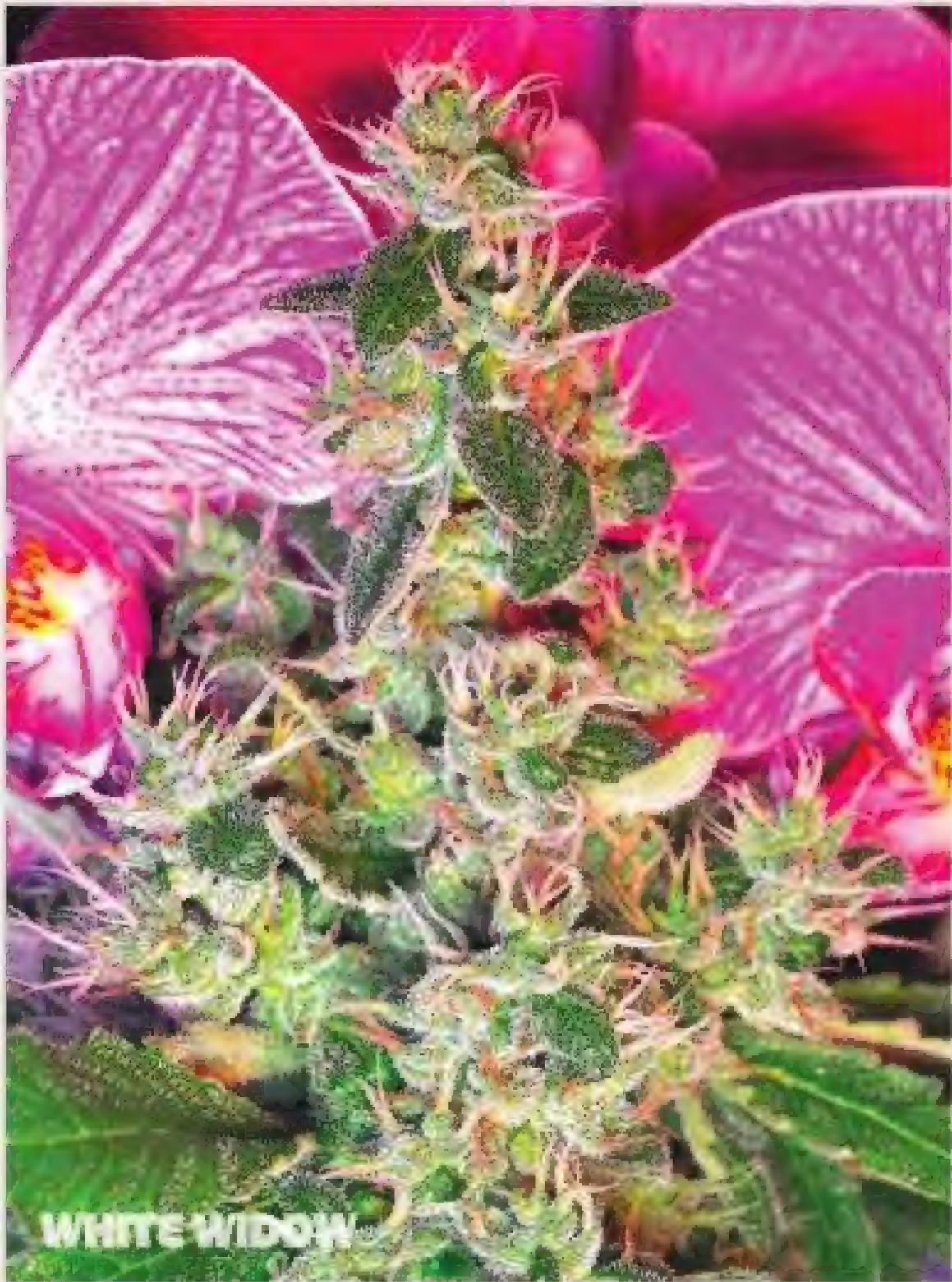
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MARKET ANALYSIS

The king is dead. Long live the king. Well, okay, Kush isn't exactly dead—the venerable strain did finish December in the number-two spot. And, yes, Diesel may not have a long reign as the new King of Strains; nonetheless, it managed to edge out Kush as the month's most submitted strain. This marks only the second time in 2011 that Kush failed to take the top pot spot; before this, it was the most submitted strain for every month this year aside from January, when Diesel also finished first. Additionally, White Widow joined the top five this month for the first time since March 2011. The top five strains (with average price) were Diesel (\$331), Kush (\$375), Purps (\$326), Haze (\$325) and White Widow (\$375).

Index Watch: Once again, all indices finished below their year-to-date and previous month's average with the exception of the Schwag Index. In fact, at an average of \$328 an ounce, the US Price Index finished with a low for the year, while the Kind Index ended at its second-lowest mark of 2011. Schwag, meanwhile, rebounded \$15 in December and finished the month close to its year-to-date average.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: \$328 (last month: \$343; YTD: \$346)
CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): \$395 (\$414, \$411)
CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): \$264 (\$268, \$272)
CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): \$103 (\$88, \$102)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Auburn	Mids	\$120
CALIFORNIA	Woodland	Purple Diesel Jack Herer	\$180 \$180
COLORADO	Denver Pueblo	White Widow Bubba Kush Sour Diesel Chemdog	\$228 \$375 \$375 \$350
DELAWARE	Newark	Sour Diesel Cinderella 99	\$420 \$400
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Washington	Mids	\$200
FLORIDA	Orlando	Chocolope	\$500
HAWAII	Honolulu Kauai Maui	Super Lemon Haze Bubblegum Apollo 13	\$400 \$300 \$350
IDAHO	Kellogg	White Widow	\$300
INDIANA	Indianapolis	Irene	\$400
LOUISIANA	Metairie	Grenadine Sweet Purple	\$300 \$325
MARYLAND	Charles County Laurel	Black Domino G-13 Haze Sour Diesel	\$350 \$350 \$375
MASSACHUSETTS	Bedford	Champagne Kush Purple Star	\$350 \$350
MICHIGAN	Detroit	Granddaddy Urkel Sour Diesel Sour OG Kush	\$450 \$450 \$450
MINNESOTA	St. Cloud	Afghoey Grapefruit	\$350 \$325
MISSISSIPPI	Jackson	Sour Diesel	\$350
MONTANA	Missoula	LA Woman	\$225
NEW YORK	New York Seneca Falls	Strawberry Cough Blue Dream	\$500 \$480
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheville	Super Lemon Haze	\$300
OHIO	Canton	OG Kush Bubblegum	\$300 \$270
OREGON	Gresham	Vantage	\$265
PENNSYLVANIA	Dingmans Ferry Philadelphia	Jack Herer Pineapple Express	\$350 \$400
TEXAS	Mansfield	OG Kush	\$400
UTAH	Ogden	Sour Diesel Sour Grape Haze	\$250 \$250
INTERNATIONAL (prices in US or Canadian dollars and Peruvian <i>nuevos soles</i>):			
CANADA	Ottawa Welland	Blue Domina Critical Mass Super Skunk Jack Herer Durban Poison Blueberry	C\$190 C\$230 C\$240 C\$180 C\$200 C\$180
COSTA RICA	San Jose	Blue Dream	\$350
PERU	Lima	Skunk	S/450

LA Woman - \$225

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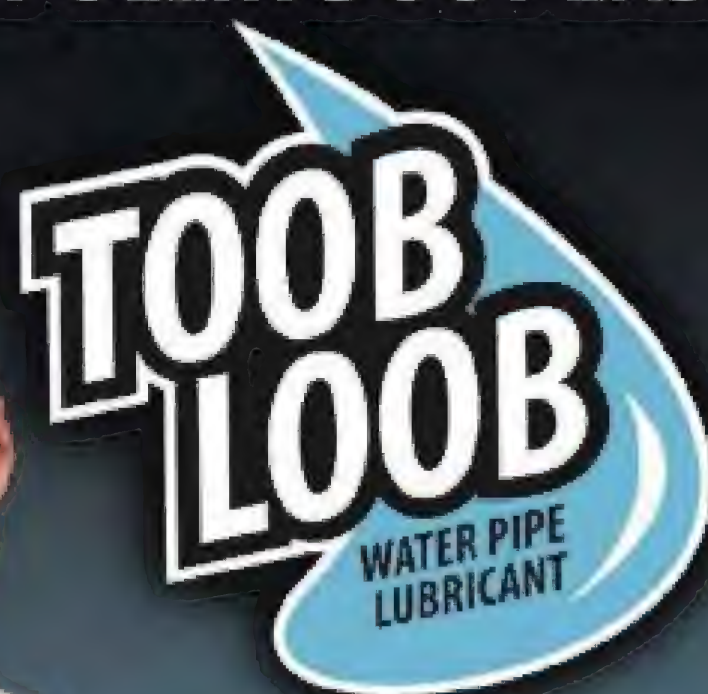
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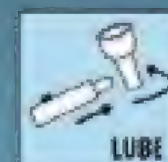
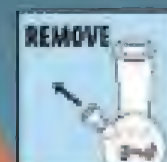
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WHEN LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DECIDE TO BREAK RANKS OVER THE WAR ON DRUGS, LEAP PROVIDES ALL THE BACKUP THEY NEED.

BY CHAD KUSHINS

When thousands of police officers from around the nation gathered in Washington, DC, this spring to take part in an annual candlelight vigil for their fallen brethren as part of National Police Week, members of a controversial organization were on hand to demand an end to the War on Drugs. But these weren't gatecrashers; for the most part, they were fellow boys in blue.

Modeled in part on Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)—a Massachusetts-based nonprofit with over 15,000 members—has spent the better part of a decade advocating for a rational, public-health approach to drug use and abuse in America, while simultaneously providing support for law-enforcement officers of all stripes who have

been ostracized solely for questioning the U.S. government's flawed drug policies.

For instance, two years ago, former Border Patrol agent Bryan Gonzalez casually suggested to a fellow agent that legalizing drugs could cut down on the rampant trafficking violence along the southern border. In response, he was ratted out to internal affairs—and promptly relieved of his duties. Then Gonzalez heard from LEAP.

"LEAP gave me the moral support that I needed," he says. "I imagine that my story will most likely make other law-enforcement agents scared of questioning their jobs or speaking their minds, but it's the American way to voice your opinions. Our country was founded on having a voice ... and this is a 'war' that's *not* being won."

Gonzalez has since returned to college as a history major, with a minor in Latin American border studies. Someday, his story could very well be taught as part of the class' curriculum. In the meantime, he encourages fellow law enforcers to speak their minds and know that

LEAP is standing behind them.

Founded in 2002 with five initial members, the organization has since grown into one of the most active pro-drug-law-reform organizations in the US. Working to educate the public about wasteful government policies and to restore "the public's respect for law enforcement," LEAP stresses legalization over decriminalization, hoping to save lives and taxpayer money while depriving organized crime of its single most profitable endeavor—one that it uses horrific violence to defend and maintain.

"When one of my best friends was killed doing an undercover drug purchase," says LEAP executive director Neill Franklin, "it opened my eyes to the fact that not only are these drug

**'THE OBAMA
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TO ACTUALLY
ADDRESS IT.'**

laws ineffective, but they lead to brave and dedicated law enforcers losing their lives."

LEAP's message has even gone international: Canadian police officer David Bratzer joined in 2008 after seeing firsthand what he calls the "vicious cycle" of habitual drug offenders repeatedly failed by the current prohibitionist system.

"Arrests weren't doing anything to cure these people of their addictions," says Bratzer. "Deep down, there's a push in Canada to make the laws as strict as those in the US I personally don't know why they would want to go down that road, having seen the statistics of the War on Drugs in America."

In addition to taking its message directly to the communities affected by the War on Drugs, LEAP also lobbies local, state and even federal lawmakers. In June, members attempted to deliver a report on the Obama administration's ineffectual drug policies to US drug czar Gil Kerlikowske, only to have the federal official send a gofer down to the lobby to retrieve it in his place.

"The fact that Kerlikowske refused to sit down with us and discuss these issues—even when we went directly to his doorstep—speaks volumes about how much the Obama administration would rather ignore the failed War on Drugs than do anything to actually address it," Franklin says regarding the drug czar's cold shoulder.

Undeterred, LEAP continues to work to increase awareness.

"Clearly, the War on Drugs has failed," Franklin says, "and nowhere is that more clear than with respect to marijuana More and more cops now agree: Legalizing marijuana will *improve* public safety." ✱

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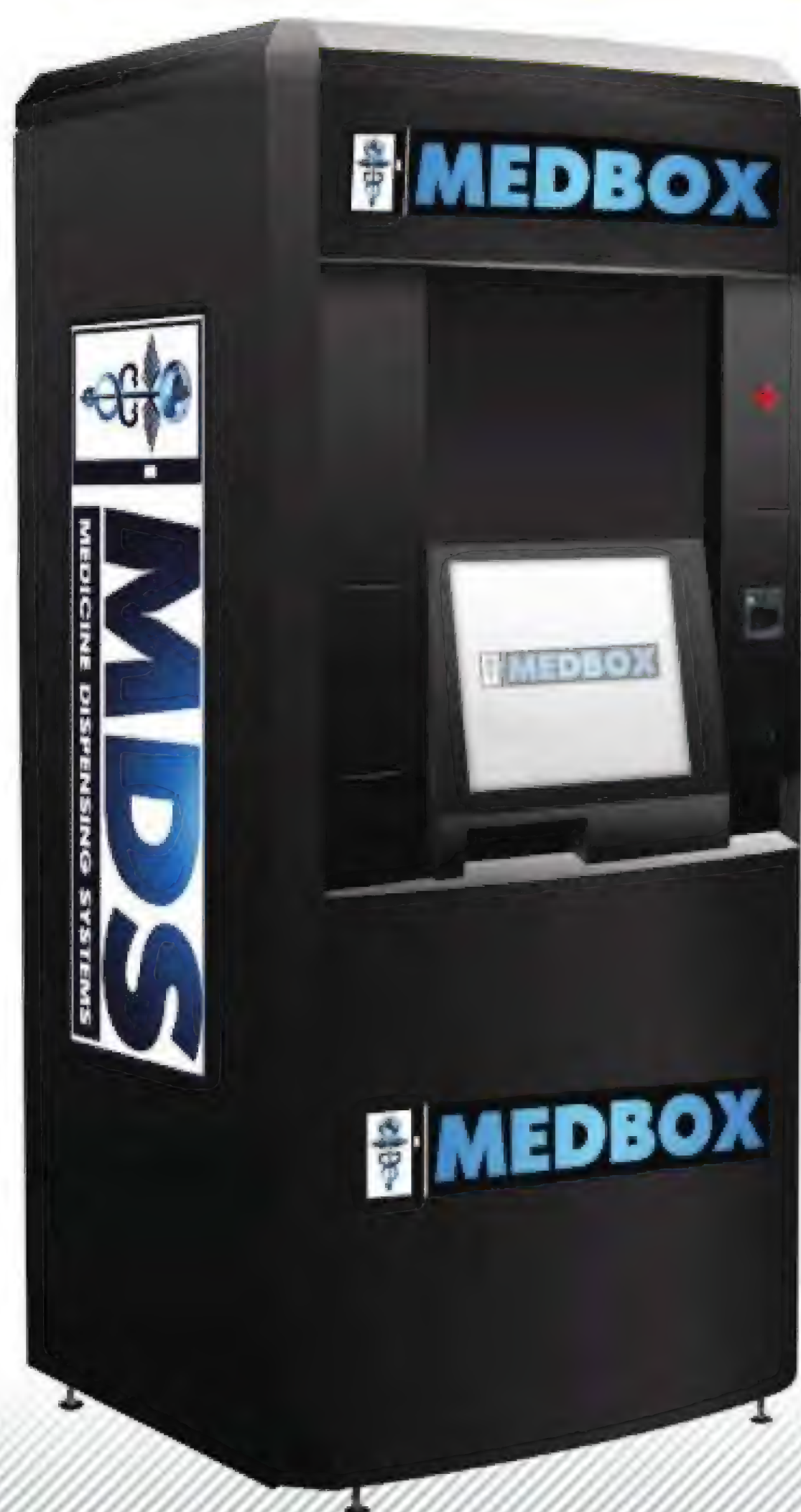
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WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE

AN ILLUMINATING LOOK INSIDE A LIGHT-DEPRIVATION GREENHOUSE. BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK. PHOTOS BY MURPHY GREEN

Not much on this remote, rural medical ganja farm adheres to a strict schedule. Morning comes when the sun rises over the hills and wakes you up in your tent. The lunch break begins when it gets too hot to work in the early afternoon and/or a tortilla starts sounding mighty nice, with the midday meal typically (but not always) followed by a few hard-fought games of rustic ping-pong and a siesta of undetermined length in a shady hammock. Under no circumstances does anybody ever schedule a meeting for any time more precise than “after dinner.” And nobody ever busts your balls about the dress code. So stay up all night smoking hash and playing truck-driver songs on a battered acoustic guitar if you want—

just so long as that next big batch of compost tea gets brewed in time to use tomorrow.

Ultimately, it's the needs of the plants that determine the workday around here, whether that means pruning, transplanting, fertilizing or just letting nature run its course. But make no mistake: There's *always* plenty to do, at pretty much any time of the day—more than enough, in fact, including some fairly intense physical labor, what with a few hundred plants that just keep getting bigger every day and only a handful of human beings to look after them.

So it's not that these guys don't work hard, and it's not that they don't work smart. It's just that the closest thing they've got to a day planner

is a laminated guide to the cycles of the moon and other astrological bodies tacked onto a cabinet in the communal al fresco kitchen, which they consult from time to time in order to make sure they're planting, watering, feeding and harvesting in accordance with the Earth's own biodynamic rhythms.

Pure hippie bullshit, if you ask me—unless you happen to believe in it.

I mean, take a look at all the bright green, healthy, vigorously growing ganja plants scattered around this land, and you'd certainly have to admit they're doing something right. Of course, in all seriousness, these master gardeners *do* keep careful and even detailed



scene we've got going off to the side, where we fuck up their whole sense of time and space, not to mention purposely deprive them of the most vital life force in the universe—all in the name of a rolling harvest."

What Spore is referring to is a specially designed light-deprivation greenhouse that functions as a kind of black-ops netherworld. In fact, it's a strange experiment that's currently taking place—one that involves a definite element of deception. And so, half as a joke and perhaps half seriously (because they've started going just a bit batty up in the woods all by themselves), these gardeners discuss the chilly fall weather and their plans to listen to the World Series on the radio that night—even though it's still 92 degrees in the shade and baseball won't be crowning its next champion for another four months.

"Yessiree, I sure am looking forward to Halloween on Tuesday," Water Bear informs a particularly

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species). Roughly half of all those seedlings will end up being males, and the other half will be females—a unique property of this plant.

Left to their own devices, the males and females grow rapidly, side by side, without much differentiation between the two, until autumn, when the days grow short enough for 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness to fall over the plants at night. At that point, the females begin to produce resinous flowers (i.e., dank buds), while the males form small sacs of pollen that will eventually open up and pollinate any nearby females, with seeds

being formed as a result.

Unfortunately (for us), the moment that happens, the female plants largely stop producing resin, which is where the majority of the plant's THC and other important cannabinoids reside. So in addition to seedy weed, you're talking about low-grade weed—which explains why marijuana growers adhering

Covering plants once a day induces early flowering.



records, not to mention updating and maintaining a fairly endless to-do list—it's just that, like I said, everything here gets done, but nothing ever gets done at any particular time.

With one major exception, once per day.

Today, appropriately, the big event is scheduled to begin just a few minutes prior to 5 p.m., the traditional end of the working day for the all-American wage slave. Spore, the project's head gardener, blows a conch shell, and soon enough, all four of us have assembled en masse before the largest structure on the land, as if gathering together for some strange, barbaric ritual timed to the precise position of the sun in the sky. When, in fact, the truth is much ... darker.

"It's a little weird," Spore admits. "Our entire philosophy in growing these plants on this farm centers around providing them with everything they need to thrive in a natural, healthy, organic way, out in the open, under the sun and the moon ... except for this one sort of Area 51

fragrant Tangelo variety. "And what a beautiful sunset we have this evening!"

It's early July—practically the longest day of the year—and the sun won't be setting for hours. But fear not: The farm's resident systems expert hasn't lost track of the time (or his mind) *that* severely. Rather, he's deliberately trying to fool the plants into thinking it's a few months later than it actually is as part of his own clever plan to get them to start budding much earlier in the season than Mother Nature ever intended.

Of course, it takes more than just talking to the plants to accomplish that neat trick. But before we get to the particulars of how the light-dep greenhouse induces early flowering, we first need to understand the natural life cycle of cannabis.

Most importantly, marijuana is an annual plant, which means that in nature, it grows up from seeds each spring and dies off every autumn (after producing and scattering a new generation of seeds in order to further propagate the

to the *sinsemilla* technique (Spanish for "without seeds") carefully remove all male plants from their gardens long before they have a chance to fully mature.

As a result, the remaining females never get pollinated, so they never produce seeds—which means they never *stop* producing sweet, sticky, resinous buds right up to the moment you cut them down. Of course, in the great outdoors, that whole process from seed to harvest takes roughly five months to happen, depending on the particular climate and the strain you're growing.

Meanwhile, indoor ganja growers, by exploiting their total mastery over the plants' environment, can choose exactly when to start flowering simply by cutting back their grow lights to a 12/12-hour light/dark cycle. The most advanced indoor growers even divide their operations into separate areas for vegetative and flowering growth, to ensure a perpetual harvest every few weeks instead of every five months.



Preparing to raise the cover.



Fans circulate air inside the greenhouse.



The "light dep" plants in the greenhouse will ripen much quicker than those left outdoors.



Plants must have an uninterrupted dark cycle to bud.

"What's nice about that is you get a manageable harvest on a regular schedule," says Spore, who may or may not have done a bit of indoor growing before seeing the light about the benefits of outdoor organic. "Meanwhile, out here, we're not using a bunch of thousand-watt lights running nonstop, and we can't control the actual sun. So what the light-dep greenhouse allows us is a chance to get a significant bit of our garden flowered, harvested and processed early so we don't have to do it all at once."

Given the limited manpower out here and the large population of plants, that's more than a passing concern. Light-depping also means hav-

ing a cash crop to market in the middle of the "dry" summer, as well as cutting down on the amount of water, fertilizer and other inputs in the garden (since they're shortening the growth cycle by months). Best of all, they can even reuse the same greenhouse space to get a second harvest later in the season.

So how does light-dep work?

It's pretty simple, actually. The key is constructing a greenhouse that can be quickly and easily covered up, with the inside kept dark enough to trick the plants into thinking it's actually nighttime. This way, the plants get the benefits of the full summer sun all day, but *you* get to

decide when to trigger flowering by cutting back the light cycle to 12 hours per day—at which point, your light-dep plants will begin to think it's autumn and start making buds.

If you're handy and have enough time to devote to the project, you can certainly design and construct a simple light-dep greenhouse of your own out of PVC pipes and two-by-fours at a significant savings. But given the incredibly busy schedule at the farm this spring, Spore decided to buy a kit version instead. For roughly \$1,500, it came complete with poles, pipes and a U channel with wiggle wire that tied onto the frame.

Before starting construction, these foresighted farmers searched for an ideal location—one that was large and flat enough and also shaded in the afternoon, since that keeps the greenhouse much cooler while covered than if it was in full sun. They also planned carefully and chose a greenhouse large enough to house the plants comfortably not just at the beginning of the light-dep cycle but also a couple of months later, when they reached full budding maturity.

Next, our farmers used pressure-treated wood for the baseboards and ends and then followed the instructions that came with the greenhouse. They strongly advise getting one with a fully rounded roof, since that makes it much easier for one or two people to cover the greenhouse at night, which involves throwing ropes attached to a giant tarp from one side to the other and then using them to drag the tarp over top of the structure. The rounded sides also allow a bit more room for branches to spread from the outer row of plants. And it's important not to crowd them.

"I need to have easy access to every pot so I can water them all and give individual attention to each plant without contorting my body uncomfortably or leaning on the branches," Water Bear says. "You definitely don't want the branches touching, and you need to leave walkways for the gardener.... Now that means fitting a few less plants into the greenhouse, but it pays off in the end because you yield a little more per plant and have much less problems with pests and diseases. If you give more attention to fewer plants, you'll have better results."

Known as "panda plastic," the tarp they use is black on the bottom to keep light out of the greenhouse, but white on top to reflect the sun's heat. The light-dep greenhouse also has fans hung throughout; these run whenever the plants are covered to keep them cool and prevent humidity from building up, which can lead to powdery mildew and other problems. The fans are pointed perpendicular to the length of the greenhouse in order to fully circulate the air, rather than just blowing air from one to the next.

All told, it took three farm workers a little more than a day to fully construct this light-dep greenhouse, and only about 10 minutes for the four of us to cover it up. We'll leave the tarp on until about an hour after sunset, at which point it grows dark enough on this remote mountainside to safely remove it.

Typically, but not always, this is the last thing these guys do before turning in for the night. After all, it's another working day in the morning. And the sun usually decides to come up pretty early. 🌱

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Dear Danko

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

SONIC REDUCER

Okay, Danko, I got one for ya! In a few articles I've read recently, growers are saying that if you don't decrease your CO₂ from 1,200 to 1,500 ppm down to ambient levels (300 to 500, I guess?) for the last two weeks, then you will pay dearly when it comes to density, flavor, color, etc. If this is true, then how am I supposed to run my new harvest-every-two-weeks setup (using four 1,000-watt lights and four 4 x 4 ft. trays) without screwing myself on the endgame in the last two weeks? Like I said, it will always be the last two weeks for one of my trays, so what should I do? Should I set up a "finishing tent" to put each one in for its last two weeks? It seems that many people must be having this problem, so what gives, man?

Humbly and respectfully yours,

Irie Lion

Dear Irie,
The rumors and myths surrounding pot growing never cease to amaze me. If you listened to all of them and acted accordingly, you would never harvest a gram. There's no truth to the theory that lowering carbon dioxide for the last two weeks of flowering helps at all—in fact, some people *increase* CO₂ at that time in order to further bulk up their buds (not my recom-

mendation). Your perpetual-harvest system is fine as it is without having to create a "finishing room" or reducing CO₂ during any part of the flowering stage. Continue as you are and focus your energies on timing and dialing in your system to its full production capabilities.

SEED STARTS

I travel two to three days at a time for my day job. As a result, sometimes I have trouble getting seedlings started, since I can't be home to water them two to three times a day. I live in the Rockies with very low humidity, so my cubes occasionally dry out and prevent seedling growth. Do you know of a system out on the market that is similar to the EZ Cloner, but for seeds?

MM

Dear MM,
Starting seedlings can be a tough and frustrating experience; so can traveling for three days at a time while trying to cultivate cannabis. If you can't reduce your trips, then I would suggest using a timer and pump to feed water to your seedlings while you're away. It's easier and less stressful than using an aeroponic mister system for the purpose of germinating and keeping young seedlings alive.

Fill a five-gallon bucket with the mild nutri-

ent solution that you plan to feed to your young plants. Place a water pump (the pet store has inexpensive ones for aquariums) in the bottom and plug it into a repeat cycle timer set to fill your tray for five to 10 seconds several times per day. Be sure to test it out before you leave and dial in the amount of seconds it takes to wet your seedlings without drowning them or flooding your area.

DRIP DROP

I've heard of people using individual lines to feed their plants drop by drop of water all day. Is this effective and, furthermore, how would I go about setting up something like that for myself? Thanks!

Itching to Grow

Dear ITG,
You're referring to the hydroponic growing method known as the drip-emitter system (DES). Tubing connected to each plant draws liquid nutrient solution from a reservoir to every plant in your room. Drip emitters are the ends that sit at plant level and control how much water the roots receive.

First, you'll need enough tubing to reach all of your plants. Drip systems are quite versatile, and you can customize them to fit almost any



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Dear Danko



Plants spend time in their vegetative stage indoors under fluorescent lighting.

space or amount of plants. Cut the tubing into the lengths you need and secure the dripper on the end. Then firmly press the emitter into the top of your grow medium; connect the reservoir end to your underwater pump; and set the timer to drip when needed (typically about 10 minutes every two to three hours during the "daytime" part of your light cycle). You will need to increase or decrease feedings based on your plants' size and nutritional needs.

NOT FILLING OUT

My friend hasn't been growing for very long, but he's had several harvests so far. He has an 8' x 8' room with a 600-watt lamp and about six to eight plants at a time. The plants look healthy and green, but the buds don't seem to be fully developing. He's using Botanicare Grow and Bloom along with whatever the salesman pushed with that line of nutes. My question is: Why are the buds not full like so many of the pictures I see? The pistils are very long, but the buds are mostly just strings of pistils. The buds are dense on the plants with long pistils, but when they're finished curing, they are stringy, thin and not meaty at all. Although the end result does get him high, he'd like some tips, such as what nutrients you recommend or

some grow habits he may be missing.

Thanks for your time in advance!

Pino

Dear Pino,

There are a number of possible reasons why your friend's buds aren't filling out. The problem could stem from inferior genetics: Did he start growing from bag seed, or did he get his seeds from a reputable source? Also, the light could be too far away from the plant tops, causing them to stretch out and fail to bulk up. His problem could also be caused by over- or underwatering, over- or underfeeding, or a lack of fresh air circulating in the room.

INSIDE OUT

I've ordered some Ganja Dwarf seeds, and this is my first time attempting to grow. I have all my items ready to begin, and I'll be using a back sunroom with open ventilation. Once I have my seeds germinated and placed in my pots, should I leave them inside until they're a few inches tall, or put them outside and then bring them in at night? Also, since the key here is to grow females, will I be able to cut some of the buds and leave the rest so I don't have to pull out the whole plant?

Eric

Dear Eric,
I'm not sure I fully understand your question, but I'll give it a shot. Once your seeds are germinated, it's imperative to get them under at least 18 hours of light immediately. Otherwise, they will stretch and grow long, lanky limbs as they struggle to receive more light, which means you'll wind up with tall, leggy plants unable to support themselves later in life.

If you're planning to put the plants outdoors eventually, get yourself a good bank of T5 fluorescents or a 250-watt metal halide (MH) grow light in order to keep them short and stocky before they go outside. This will get them ready for the strong, intense light of the sun, which can be quite harsh on new seedlings placed outside for the first time. You can also help acclimate them to the full sun by placing them out in the shade at first and then allowing them a few hours of sunlight per day (supplementing that with indoor bulbs, of course, for the rest of the daytime hours).

As for your second question, cannabis is an annual plant, so harvesting a little bit at a time doesn't really make sense. Plants can be regenerated, but that will result in diminishing returns, and I don't recommend it unless you're desperate to keep a certain strain alive for the future. Instead, harvest your plants all at once and start new seedlings or clones for the next run.

PONDERING HYDRO

What's all the stuff you need to get started growing hydro? I need to know everything as soon as possible.

KooBee

Dear KooBee,

That's a pretty all-encompassing question! The first thing you need to know is precisely what "hydroponics" is: the growing of plants without soil or soilless mix to hold the roots. That means your medium can be rockwool, expanded clay pellets, coco coir or even no medium at all, such as in aeroponics or deep-water culture (DWC), where the roots dangle in an oxygenated nutrient solution.

You still have many choices, such as a recirculating system or a drain-to-waste one. The former relies on a reservoir and pump that feeds your plants and allows all excess solution to return to the reservoir for future use. The latter consists of a system in which nutrient solution is discarded after one use.

There are several types of recirculating hydroponic growing as well. Nutrient-film technique (NFT) bathes the roots in a shallow stream of solution, while a drip-emitter system, as I discussed in an earlier question, feeds the plants individually using tubing placed at the foot of each plant. The ebb-and-flow (or flood-and-drain) system utilizes a timer and pump to flood the grow tray with nutrient solution at regular intervals and then returns the solution back to the reservoir.

The most important things to remember about hydroponic growing are the temperature, the ppm (parts per million) level of minerals and salt elements in the water, and the pH of the nutrient solution. Reservoir temps should never go below 65°F or above 75°F, and you'll need a heater, a chiller and a regulator to control this. Also, you must have a ppm and pH meter and controller in

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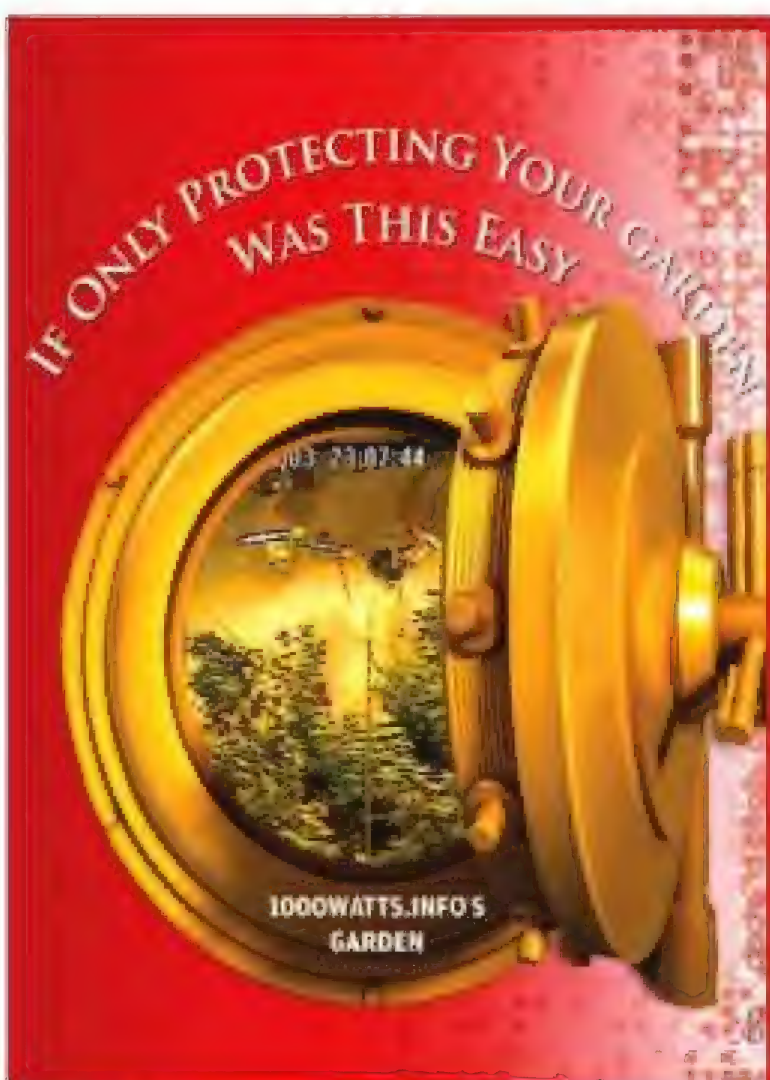
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Dear Danko



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EASY CLONE

I'm a licensed medical marijuana patient who's
having trouble cloning the Papaya strain. Is this
a hard plant to clone, or am I doing something
wrong? I appreciate your taking the time to an-
swer this.

Brian

Dear Brian,

It's true that some strains are harder to clone
than others, but all of them can be rooted under
the proper conditions. The most important two
things to remember when cloning are high tem-
perature and high humidity. You'll find that if you
heat your cloning trays from below with a simple
electric heat mat and use a clear plastic dome
over the tray to create a moist environment, your
success rate will skyrocket. Strong, rooted cut-
tings are the key to a healthy garden down the
road and a bigger yield come harvest time. Also,
use a sharp blade and a reliable rooting hor-
mone (powder or gel both work great).

LIGHT CYCLE

What are your thoughts on growing with a 24-
hour "day" cycle? I'm a horticulture student, so
I'm a bit skeptical about this method. It claims
to speed up the flowering time and reduce
hydro consumption. I appreciate all your time
and effort. HIGH TIMES 4 LIFE!

Chief Bigsmoke
BC, Canada

Dear Chief,

Congratulations and good luck in your horticul-
ture studies, and thanks for your support of
HIGH TIMES! I don't believe in messing with the
growing cycle in the way that you mention. For
vegetative growth, I recommend 18 to 22 hours
of light per 24-hour day in order to mirror the
greatest amount of light plants receive in the
summer. Contrary to some grow pros, I don't
recommend 24 hours of light because I believe
(and plant science seems to bear this out) that
plants need at least a few hours of simulated
nighttime in order to rest, recuperate and get
ready for the next day.

For flowering, I strongly suggest sticking
with the typical 12-hours-on/12-hours-off cycle
that mimics the fall. Shortcuts and tricks are
not the way to grow. I'm always open to new
ideas and techniques, but sometimes sticking
with proven methods and not straying too far
from nature is the best and most practical plan.

GOING OUTDOORS

Greetings! Mike from Northern California here.
I have a prescription for medical use, but I'm
new to growing, so I'm looking for a good book
specifically on outdoor growing. Thanks!

Mike

Dear Mike,

Most cannabis grow books will have at least a sec-
tion on outdoor growing, but if you're looking for
one specific to outdoors, I suggest *Marijuana Out-
doors: Guerrilla Growing* by Jorge Cervantes
(available at marijuanagrowing.com). Another

wonderful resource is my HIGH TIMES colleague Nico Escondido's *Grow Like a Pro* DVD (available at headshop.hightimes.com). He visits huge outdoor gardens and reveals many of the techniques and setups for growing outdoors, both in full sun and in greenhouses. Good luck!

SEX FARM

I'm a first-time grower with some clones and plants grown from seed. The seed plants are close to the end of the preflowering stage, and even with the books I have, I'm having a hard time telling if they're male or female. Since I definitely don't want males, any help or directions would be really appreciated.

Enigma

Dear Enigma,

It's tougher to determine your plants' sex during the preflowering stage, and it's also unnecessary to do so until flowering has begun. Within a week or two of the 12/12 light cycle, you should be able to see signs of males and females clearly, with plenty of time to discard the gents before they pollinate your ladies.

Males will have what look like sticks protruding from their nodes (the place where the leaf meets the stem). Slowly, those sticks form into hanging bunches that resemble miniature bananas pointing down. Females, on the other hand, will first shoot out white hairs from the nodes that then begin forming into small puffballs pointing up.

BURNT CUTS

First of all, thanks again for all the great info regarding growing medicine month after month—it's nice to have an expert on call to handle inquiries. Speaking of which, I have a dilemma regarding clones. I just purchased a T5 fluorescent system to light my clone tank. I'm about five days in, and it seems like the T5s are burning the clones (browning and curling their leaves). Are T5s too bright or too powerful for clones? Also, do they need 24 hours of light, or is that part of the reason for the burning? The lighting system is approximately four inches over the clone dome I'm using. (I'm also using rockwool, FYI.) Any advice?

Diamond Dave

Dear DD,

Thanks for the kind words; it makes me very happy to help people grow better buds! T5 bulbs don't produce much heat, so at the distance you have them, your clones shouldn't be burning up the way you describe. Use a thermometer to make sure the temperature at clone level isn't higher than 85°F. If the temps are good, you might be burning the clones with a nutrient solution that's too strong. Check the fertilizer levels, and always clone using a mild nutrient solution. Also, your clones should be kept under 18 to 22 hours of light. ✨

Please send your cannabis-related questions to edit.grow@hightimes.com or to Trans-High Corp., Attn: Danny, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016.





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TOP 25 GROW GADGETS UNDER \$100

Check out the latest devices to improve your cultivation project as we review new, inexpensive grow gear: meters, fans, shields, CO₂ boosters, nursery lamps and more! There's cool stuff here for everyone—whether you're a beginner, a master, a techno-geek or maybe just someone who likes to keep things simple, we've got the goods!

CANADIAN GROWERS CONFIDENTIAL

Travel north and head behind the scenes of a high-tech, state-of-the-art grow op in Canada. Hydroponics expert Erik Biksa gets the lowdown on the secrets, tips and tricks that contribute to growing sensational Canadian pot.

CZECH YOUR HEAD!

As right-wing Dutch politicians threaten to regulate Amsterdam's coffeshops out of existence, people are debating where Europe's next pot hotspot will be. HIGH TIMES says: Go east, young man! To Eastern Europe, that is. With its lax marijuana laws, legal seeds and tolerant attitudes, the Czech Republic may be the new stoner sanctuary. HT sordid affairs editor Chris Simunek investigates.

COLORADO WINNERS

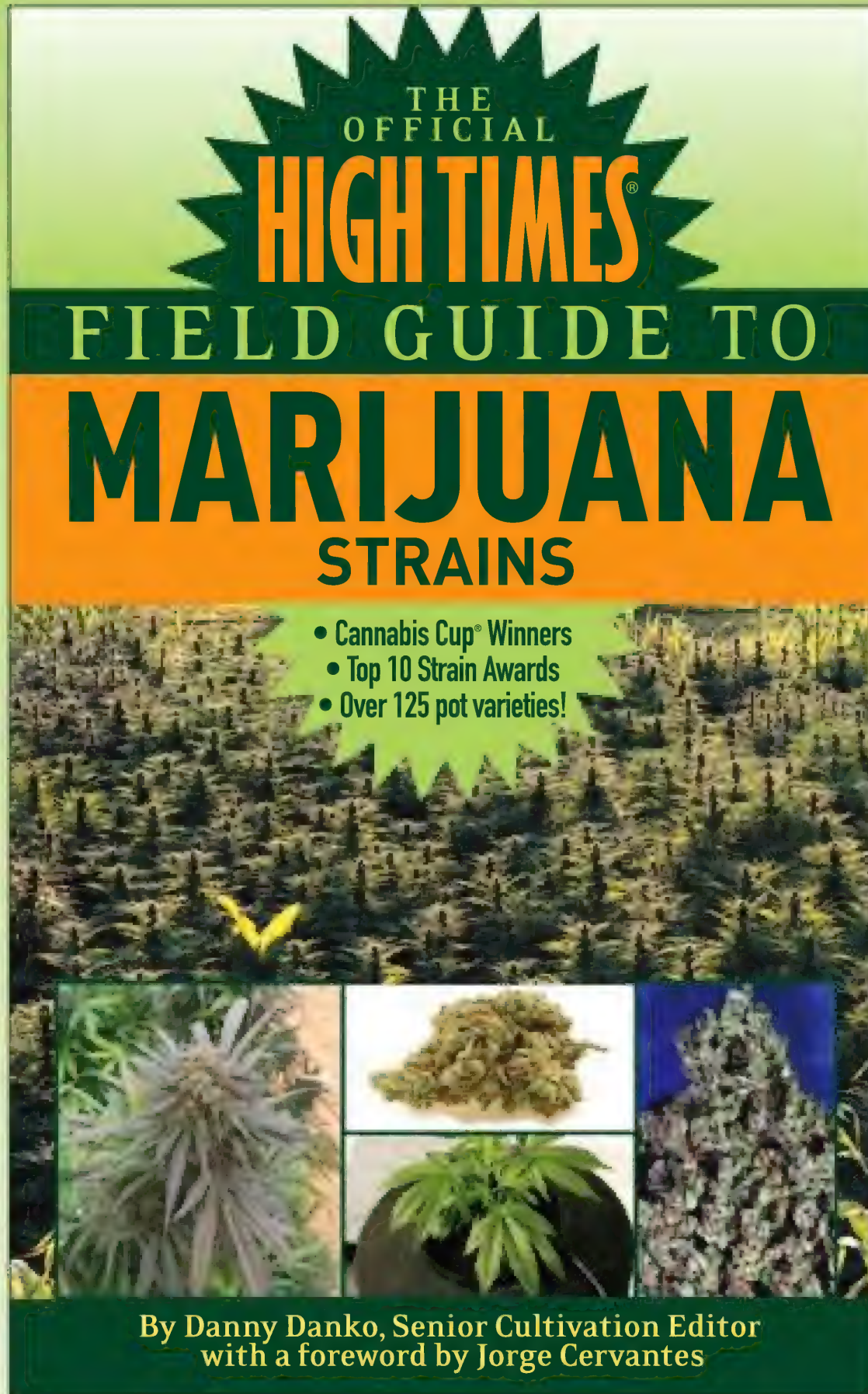
After our HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver last April, we knew we had to return to visit the gardens that grew the winning strains. Executive editor Dan Skye got the assignment and reports from the growrooms of the champs.

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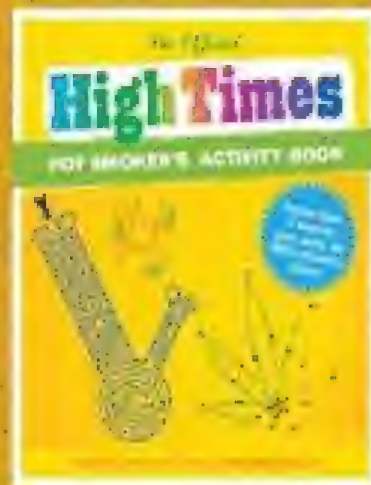
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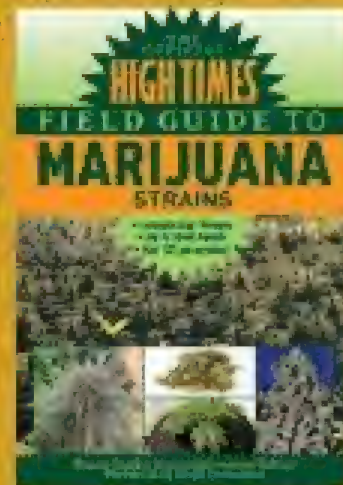
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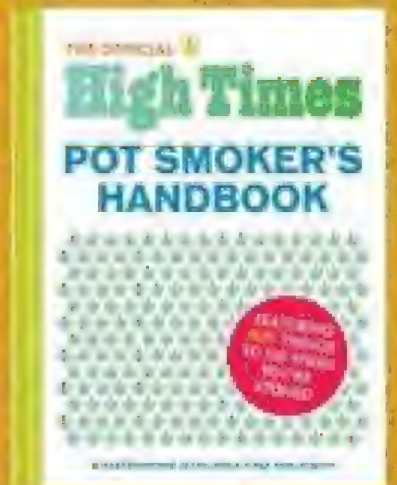
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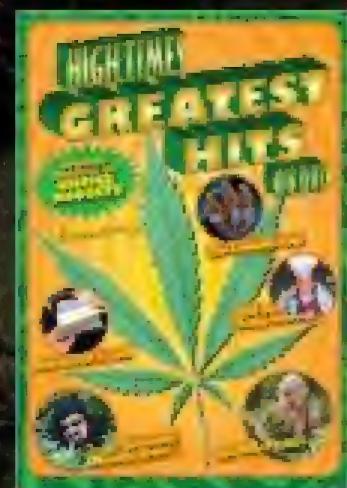
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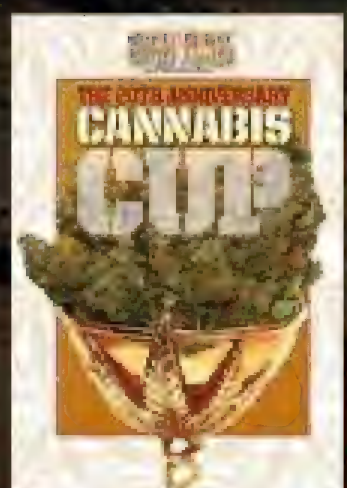
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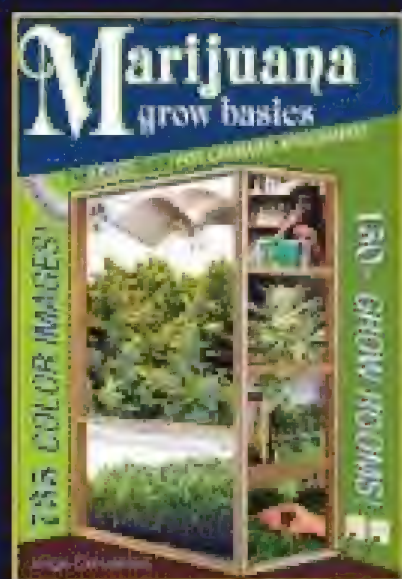
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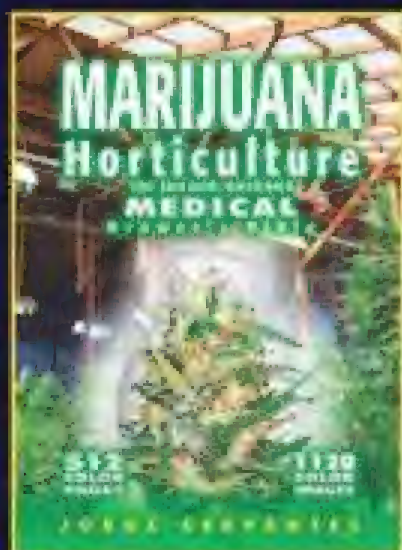


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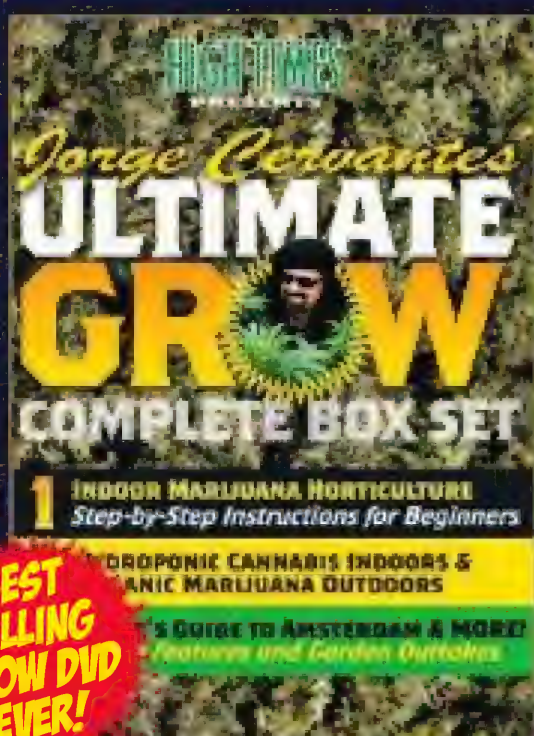
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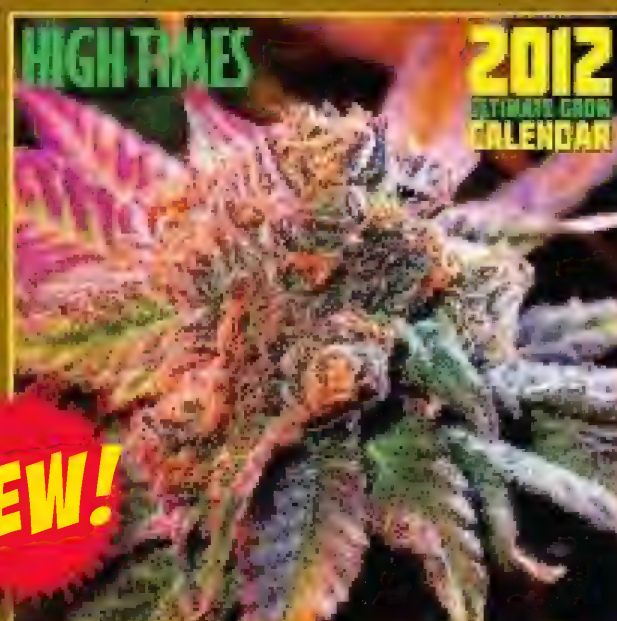
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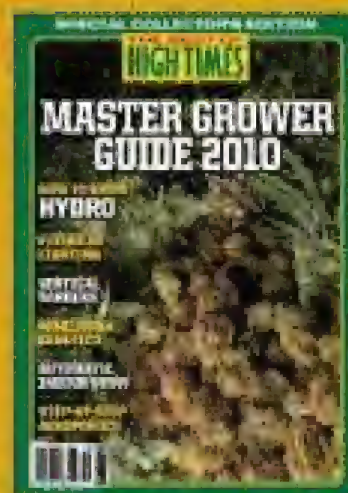
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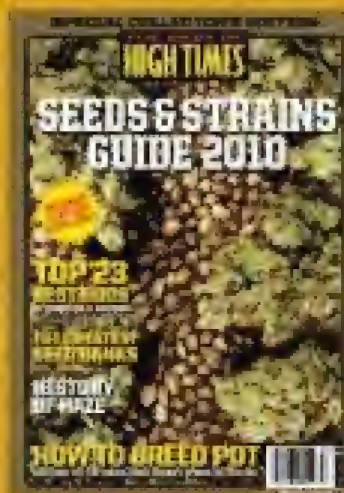
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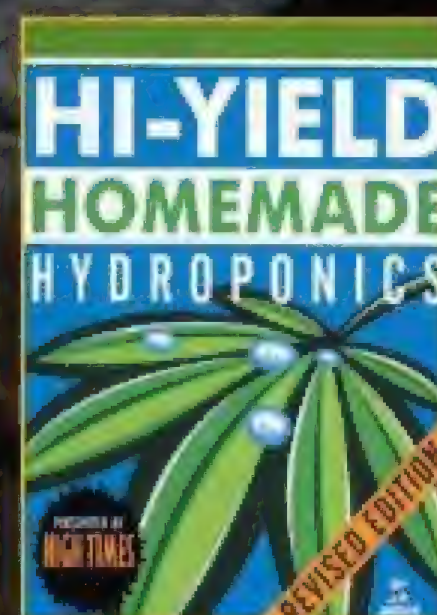
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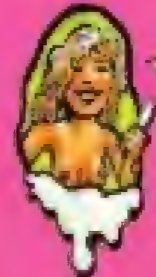
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4 **Free the Weed**

5 **Free Marc**

6 **Windy City Hempfest**

7 **Stem**

8 **COME HOME**

9 **Angie-N-Donnie**

10 **Barney Frank**

11 **Hello?**

12 **ABBEY**

13 **I Love you Cindy!**

14 **RODNEY KING**

15 **LEGALIZE**

16 **BOARDWALK EMPIRE**

17 **THE BULL**

18 **GEORGE THOROGOOD**

19 **NO Alcohol?**

20 **ALL GENERALIZATIONS ARE BAD**

21 **YOU CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING**

22 **An apple a day keeps the doctor away**

23 **What would you like to see on the Pot 40?**

24 **Write your ideas on this ballot and mail it to:**

25 **HIGH TIMES**

26 **The Pot 40**

27 **16th Floor**

28 **419 Park Ave South**

29 **New York City**

30 **10016**

31 **Vote for anything you want, choices are not restricted to the list.**

32 **Give the weed**

33 **Vote**

34 **Ballot**

35 **Vote**

36 **Ballot**

37 **Vote**

38 **Ballot**

39 **Vote**

40 **Ballot**

41 **Vote**

42 **Ballot**

43 **Vote**

44 **Ballot**

45 **Vote**

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240 **Ballot**

241 **Vote**

242 **Ballot**

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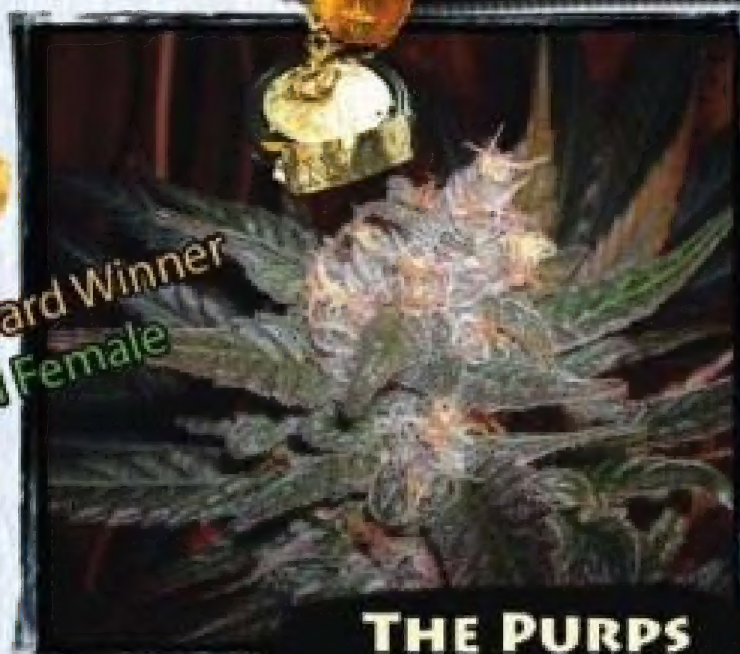
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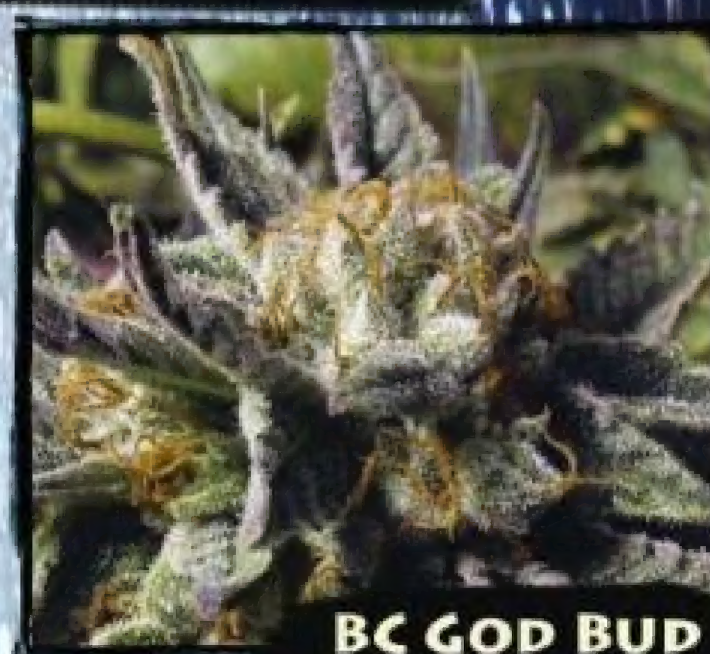
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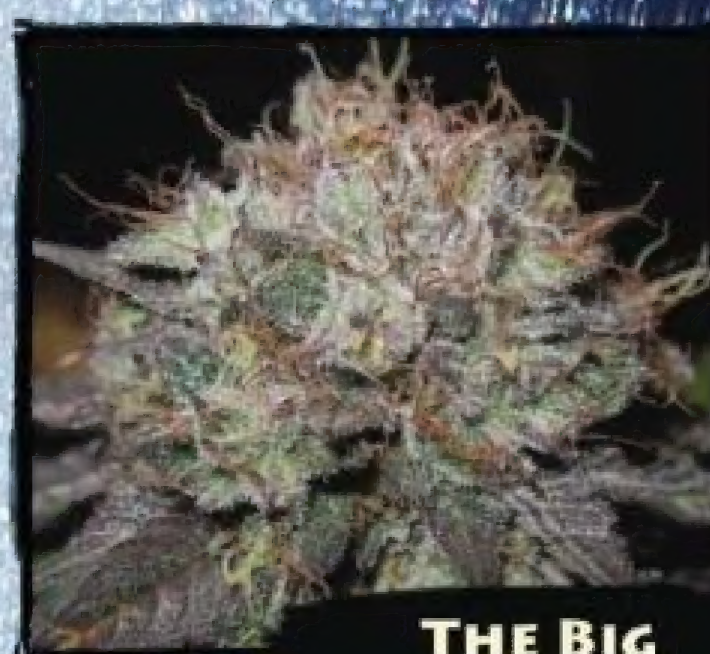
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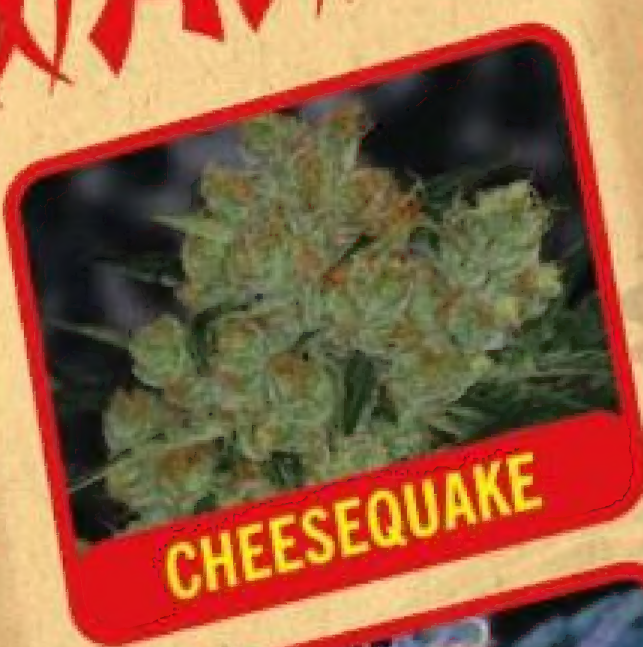
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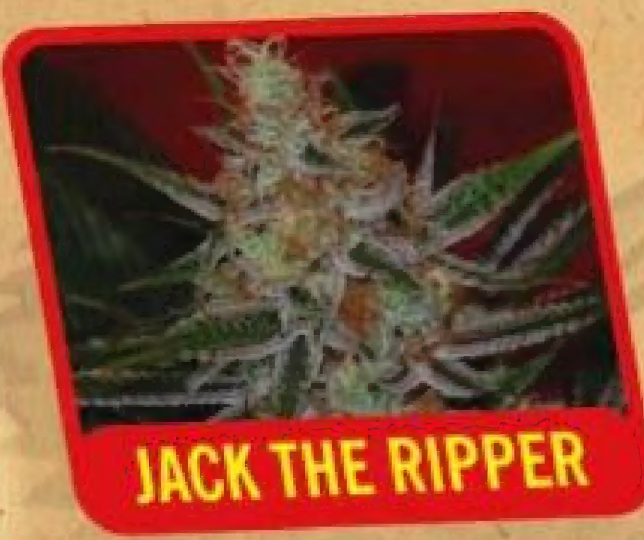
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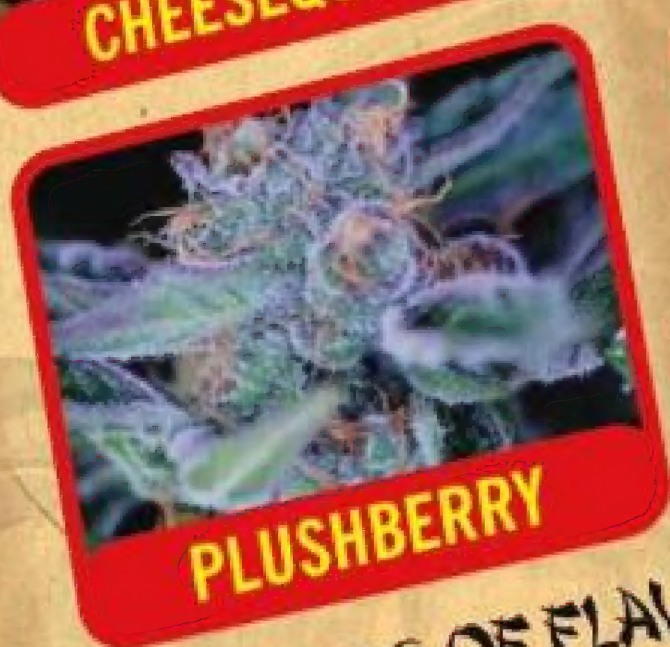
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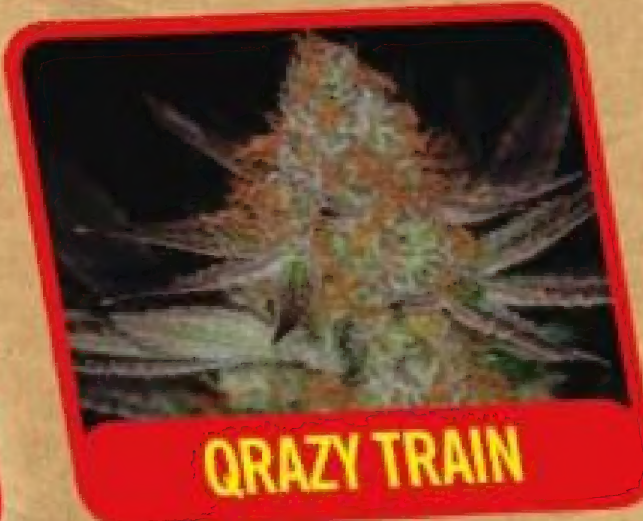
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